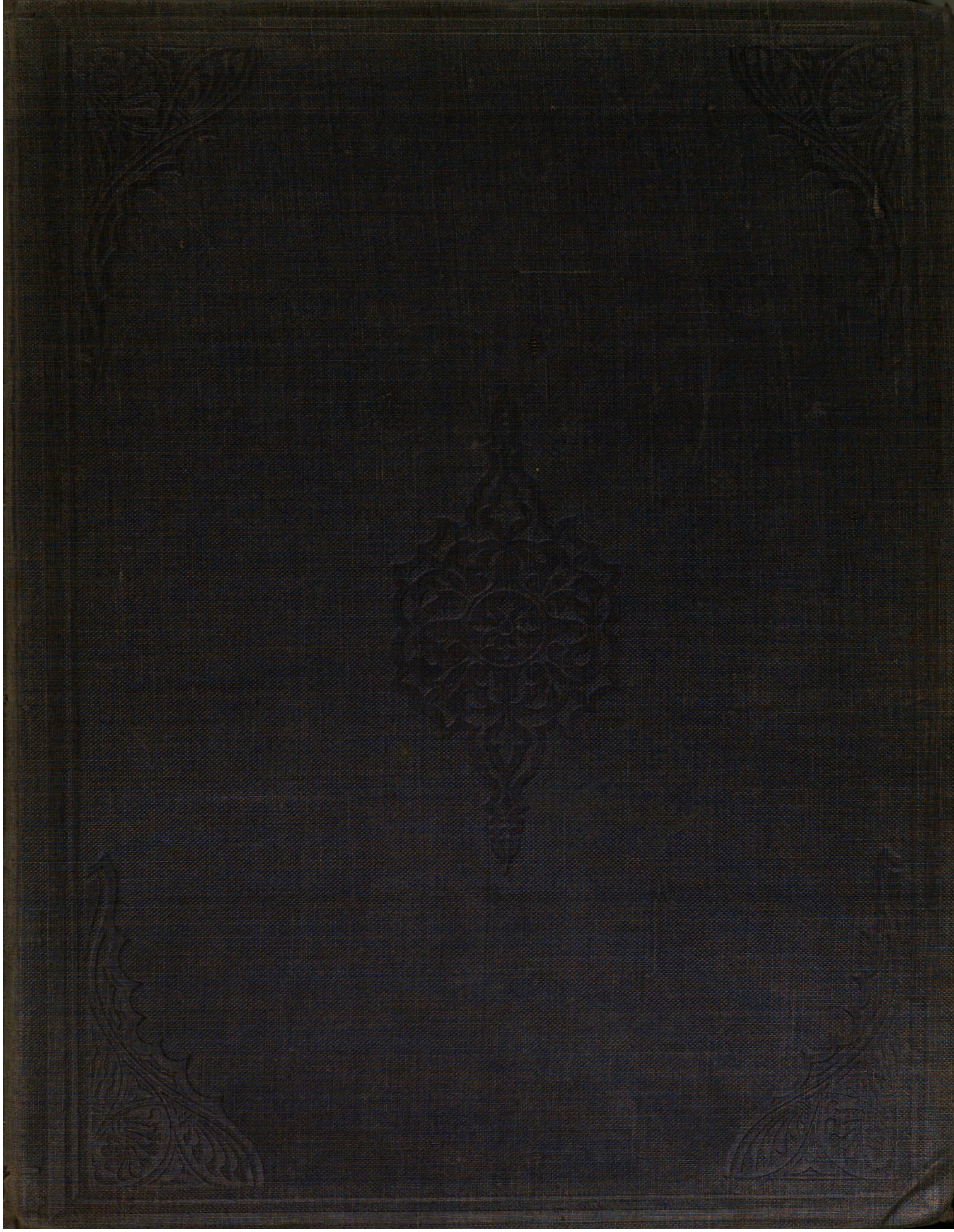




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Summary, etc.

THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

VOL. II.



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Drawn by Alfred Suckling.

BRAMFIELD CHURCH.

CENTRAL COMPARTMENTS OF THE ROOD-LOFT AND SCREEN

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THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK:
WITH
Genealogical and Architectural Notices
OF
ITS SEVERAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

BY
THE REV. ALFRED SUCKLING, LL.B.
RURAL DEAN, RECTOR OF BARSHAM, &c.

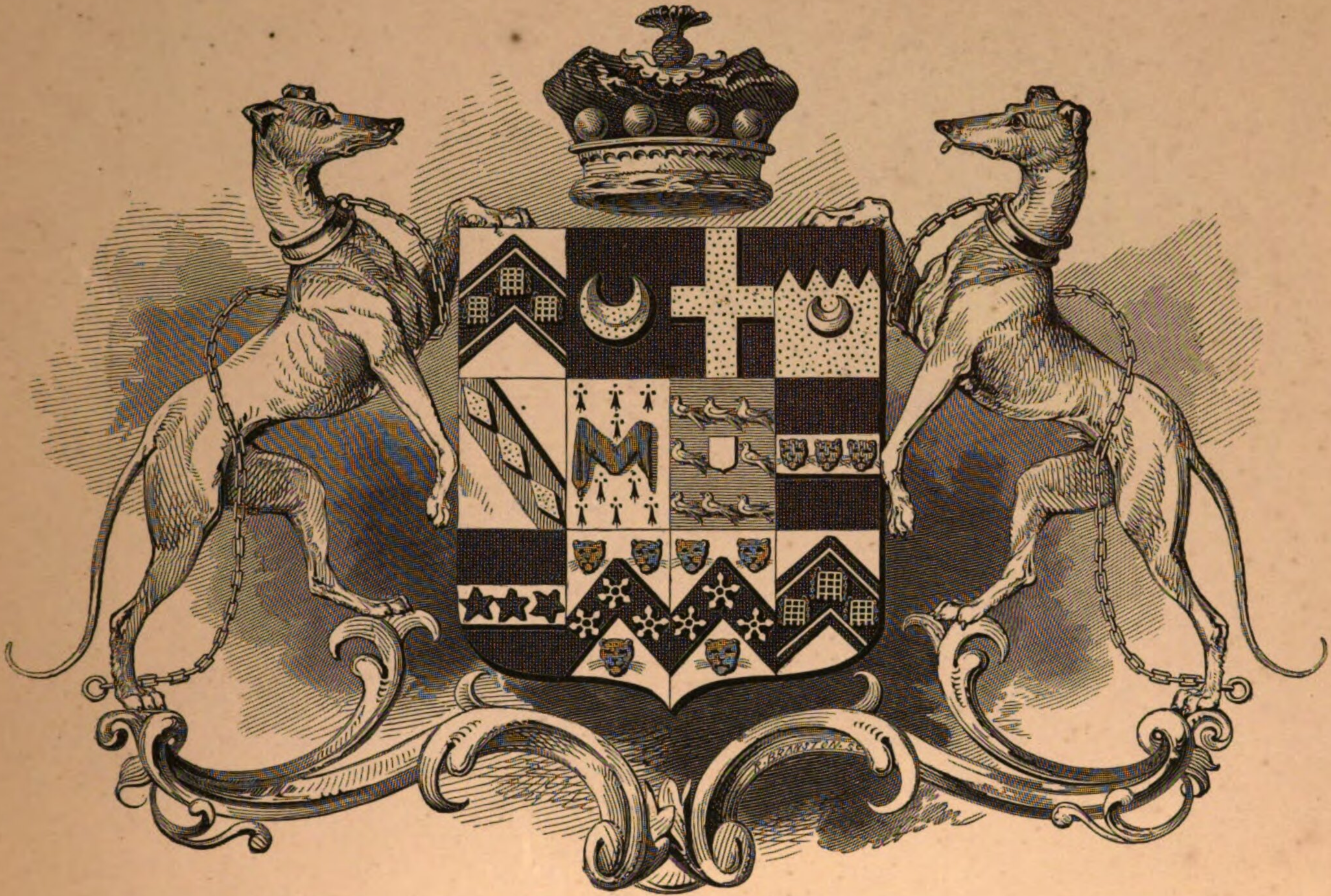
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IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,
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THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

THE HUNDRED OF LOTHINGLAND—CONTINUED.

Gunton.

GUNTON lies to the north of Lowestoft, being bounded on the east by the German Ocean. In 1287, it was the lordship of Richard de Goneton, whose successors held it till near the end of the reign of Edward II.¹ In 1338, Sir Roger de Loudham presented to the church, and held the manor; from whose family it passed, in about a century, to that of Ingloss. Sir Henry Ingloss, Knt., by his last will and testament, dated 20th June, 1451, and proved on the 4th of July in the same year, leaves his manors of "Bokenham Fery, Northwalsham, Bryan's, called Felmingham, and others in Norfolk; Pykeworth, in the county of Rutland; and his manors of Gunton and Hopton, in Suffolk, to be sold by his executors, to pay his debts." Notwithstanding this disposition of his property, we find the advowson, if not the manor of Gunton, remaining with the Inglosses till the reign of Edward IV.; Robert Ingloss, Esq., presenting to the church in 1473. It was next the estate of the Blomevyles; Ralf Blomevyle, Esq., being lord in the time of Henry VII., and Edward Blomevyle in the succeeding reign.

By an inquisitio post mortem, held at Ipswich on the 28th of September, 1591, Robert Wroote, Esq., was found to die seized of the manor of "Gunton juxta Leystoft," held of Henry Jernegan, Esq., in free soccage, as of his manor of Gorleston, and valued at £ 5. Francis Wroote, Esq., was lord soon after 1600, from whom the manor passed to Lionel Holle, Esq., of the Inner Temple, London. This gentleman married Susan, one of the daughters and coheiresses of Thomas Harvey, late of Rushmere, in Suffolk,

¹ Plita ap. West. Term Mich. A^o. 16 Ed. I. Suff. 15.

yeoman, as appears by an indenture dated the 20th of October, 1646. He survived this lady, and re-married; for in 1692, Dorothy Holle, widow, presented to the rectory.

In 1724, William Luson, merchant, was lord of the manor of Gunton; and Hewling Luson, Esq., his son, had it in 1749. In 1762, this estate, together with the small parish of Fishley, in Norfolk, was purchased by Sir Charles Saunders for £16,050. This gallant officer, after having amply merited every honourable distinction that his king and country could invest him with, exchanged these fading glories for those of a more lasting duration, on the 7th of December, 1775. He was one of the Knights of the Bath, Admiral of the White Squadron, Lieutenant-General of Marines, one of the Privy Council, and Member for Hedon, in Yorkshire. On the day in which his death was notified to the House of Commons, many of his friends attempted, in their speeches, to do justice to his memory; but the words which fell from Sir George Saville on this occasion delineate his character with the most brilliant lustre. "Four hours ago," says he, "this country had a man; but his country has him no more! one of your members, sir. A member is, perhaps, soon replaced; but where shall we find his fellow! who, having in his vigour carried your arms in glory to the extent of your empire, that empire the ocean, when called upon by his country in the dregs of life, with a constitution worn down in your service, urged on and goaded his tottering limbs, with hobbling haste and feeble alacrity, climbed the well-known sides of the ships to meet your enemies." ²

In 1776, Sir Hugh Palliser, and Timothy Bret, Esq., held the manor of Gunton, as executors or trustees of the late Sir Charles Saunders, which they relinquished to Dr. Richard Huck, a physician of eminence, who, in 1777, married the niece and heiress of Sir Charles; in consequence of which alliance Dr. Huck became possessed of this lordship, together with a large fortune, both in lands and money, and assumed the name and arms of Saunders. Dr. Huck was descended from a family in Westmoreland, which had held a small estate in that county for many generations. His mother's name was Harrison.³ Mrs. Huck Saunders died in 1780, leaving two daughters, one of whom married the Honourable Mr. (afterwards Viscount) Dundas, and the other, John, Earl of Westmoreland; of which ladies the manor and advowson of Gunton were purchased, in 1802, by Thomas Fowler, Esq., whose widow, Mrs. Mary Soame Fowler, is the present possessor.

The manor pays a small acknowledgment to the paramount lordship of Gorleston. The Blomevyles paid xv^s. Francis Wroote, Esq., in 1630, paid for Gunton Hall, and lands there, xxij^s.⁴ Lionel Holle, in 1645, was raised to £1. 3s., and his heirs paid

² Gillingwater.

³ Edinburgh Med. Commentaries, x. 322.

⁴ Quit Rental, East Leet, 1630.

£1. 4s., which sum was charged to Hewling Luson, in 1749, and seems not to have been augmented, as Dr. Saunders, in 1779, was released for the same.⁵ Many acres of waste land, in this parish, were enclosed and converted into arable by Sir Charles Saunders, which greatly increased the value both of the estate and the rectory.⁶

In the twenty-second of Queen Elizabeth, a bill in Chancery was filed by John Hoo, of Lowestoft, in the county of Suffolk, Esq., against Robert Wroote, of Gunton, Esq., reciting the grant of Henry VIII. to Edward Jerningham, Esq., and Mary his wife, of the manors of Mutford, East Leet, West Leet, South Leet, North Leet, Gorleston, and Lowestoft, and of the Hundred of Lothingland and Mutford; which, on their death, descended to Sir Henry Jerningham, Knt., as son and heir male; and on his decease, came to Henry Jerningham, Esq., his son and heir male, who, about three years before, demised the same to complainant for a term, &c. And that there was belonging to the said manors of Lowestoft and East Leet, a parcel of pasture lands called the Deanes, containing 1000 acres, lying between the main sea and the cliff, which had formerly been covered by the sea, &c., whereon, time out of mind, the inhabitants of Lowestoft had been accustomed to depasture their horses, neat, sheep, and other great cattle, and to take the furze and sweepage thereon growing. But as an acknowledgment to the lord of the said manors of the soil of the said Deanes, they had paid him the yearly sum of 6s. 8d., and that of late years they had paid him 10s. therefore. That the lord of the said manors had always been accustomed to take yearly of the fishermen, for drying their nets on the said Deanes, sundry sums of money; viz., of strangers 18d. each ship, and of every English ship 8d., and of every small boat 4d. And for the cart of every person coming and going on the same, to the said main sea, being no tenant of the manors of the said Henry Jerningham, within the said Hundred, 4d. For the horse of every pedder, kydder, or carryer, going and coming on the said Deanes, to the said main sea, a halfpenny. And divers other sums of money, for groundage, lastage, sedage, &c., according to antient custom: and had also been accounted to have waifs and strays and wreck of the sea happening upon the said Deanes: and that the inhabitants of Lowestoft have always had free passage over them for lading and unlading their ships and vessels, &c. That defendant, who was owner of the manor of Gunton, and a Justice of the Peace for the county, had entered upon part of the said Deanes, lying in Gunton, containing about 500 acres, lying between other parts of the said Deanes in Corton, and extending unto Newton Hall, on the north part, and other part thereof lying in the bounds of Lowestoft, on the south part; and interrupted the said inhabitants in depasturage; and claimed the same as his freehold, by reason that one Mr. Blomfeld, in the thirtieth year of Henry VIII., being then lord of the said manor

⁵ Quit Rental, East Leet, 1630.

⁶ Gillingwater.

of Gunton, did demise the same with other lands, holden by copy of court-roll of the manor of Lowestoft.

The answer of Robert Wroote, Esq., states, that he is seized of the manor of Gunton, with the appurtenances, and of 500 acres of land, or thereabouts, called the Deanes, lying in the limits of Gunton, being parcel thereof: that a replevin being brought by Edward Spange, who was farmer, or occupier of the said Deanes in Gunton, against George Rider, and Robert Bartholomew, who justified the right of Henry Jerningham, Esq., alledging the said 500 acres to be parcell of the manor of Lowestoft, which being tried at Nisi Prius, a verdict was found by the jury that the 500 acres was not parcell of the manor of Lowestoft; and in another replevin, brought by John Grudgfield against Thomas Abbes, who justified as bailiff to the defendant, alledging the same to be parcell of the manor of Gunton, which being tried at Bury, in Lent, then last past, the plaintiff was nonsuited.

It then goes on to deny the allegations of the Bill.

16 Nov. 22 Eliz.

The replevin of the Plt: That the Deanes, in the Bill specified, were, in the twentieth of Richard II., demised by John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, being then lord of the manors of Lowestoft and Este Leet, to John Branch and Thomas Launde for 4 years, paying therefore the first yeare £10, the second 20 marks, the third 25 marks, and the fourth £20. And that the said Earl gave the lessees £22 for building a fish-house upon the said Deanes, which was then remaining: that the inhabitants of Lowestoft always depastured, &c.: and that the farmers and owners of Gunton had been sundry times amerced in the courts of the manor of Laistofte and Este Lete, for misdemeanors on the said Deanes, &c. That a replevin was brought against John Carr, who justified as servant of Mr. Jerningham; which being tried at Nisi Prius, in Suffolk, the pl̄t was nonsuited through the contrivance of one of the jury, &c. Complainant alledged that there was no manor of Gunton, or freehold, or copyhold tenants, &c.

The rejoinder of Defendant. That complainant had not specified whether it was the Deanes of Gunton or Laystofte that were demised, 20 Rich. II.: and denies that it was a lease of Gunton Deanes, or that the inhabitants depasturing on Gunton Deanes, or taking sweepage, &c., or the amercements, &c., or the connivance of one of the jury to obtain nonsuit—affirms the manor of Gunton had formerly copyhold and freehold tenants, and that courts had been formerly held, &c.

Depositions taken at Laystofte, 20 March, 23 Eliz., before John Holding, Miles Corbett, Thomas Pooley, and Humphrey Brewster, Esqrs., upon interrogatories, &c. On the part of the complainant, the witnesses deposed, that the ground beneath the cliff, from Gallows' Score unto Corton Towne's End, had been gained or won from the sea in times past, and were sometimes overflowed by the sea against Green Score and

Lopham, and also against Gallows' Score: that the Deanes were reputed parcel of the manor of Este Lete and Lowestofte, and of the fold-course of Lowestofte: that the inhabitants of Lowestofte fed their cattle, &c., thereon, and took the sweepage between Corton and Green Score: that they kept their great cattle by their common neatherd from the towne's end to the mouthe in Lowestofte, sometimes one day in the week, sometimes two: that the inhabitants and chiefs in Lowestofte kept their sheep on the Deanes, by their private shepherd, for 60 years then last past, in number about 400 or 600, near Corton Bounds and near Hallywater Score: that the chievers of Lowestofte paid yearlie 6s. 8d. for depasturing their sheep on the said Deanes to the lord of Lowestoft, but that Sir William Kingston, when lord, increased it to 10s.: that they had discontinued to keep sheep thereon, as they caught the rot from a fall of water down Green Score, temp: 3rd of Mary, and by the loss they sustained by dogs and otherwise. That the fishermen paid Deanage to the bailiff of the Hundred of Lothinglonde, for the use of the lord of Lowestofte, for drying their nets upon the Deanes; viz., strangers 1s. 4d., and Englishmen 8d., but for small boats only 4d., &c. That pedders and caryers paid to the bayliff of the manor of Lowestofte, &c. That there were several tenements between Gallows' Score and Green Score, said to be copyhold of Lowestofte manor. That the foundation of a fish-house was remaining between Green Score and Gallows' Score: that groundage was paid of ships, boats, vessels, and goods cast on the shore of the Deanes, to the bailiff of the manor of Lowestofte and Hundred of Lothinglonde; viz., of strangers 6s. 8d., of Englishmen 3s. 4d. That the bayliffe of Lothinglonde drove yearly all manner of horses and cattle from the Deanes to the lord's pound at Gorleston, for waifs and strays. That the farmers of Gunton Hall had been amerced for their sheep and swine feeding on the Deanes. That Robert Mighells and Thomas Davye were farmers of Gunton Hall, and that during that time the sheep of the inhabitants of Lowestoft were kept by their shepherd upon the Deanes under Corton Cliff unto Corton Bounds.

All this evidence seems to have been rebutted by the witnesses for the defendant; as from a Writ it appears they deposed, that the ground in dispute had always been esteemed part of the manor of Gunton, and that the defendant had, time out of mind, taken the profits thereof: that there was a fold-course to the manor of Gunton, which lay, as well above the cliff as beneath unto the sea side, from Gunton Score, which divideth Gunton and Lowestoft, unto Justinent Score, which divideth Gunton and Corton; and that the sheep of the owners of the manor of Gunton were kept in the said fold-course, without any let of the owners of Lowestofte: that the owners of Gunton had letten the Deanes, &c.: that the sea did not overflow the ground between Gunton Skore and Justinent Skore, but that it had won in a block-house, three salt-houses, and bulwarkes against the town of Lowestoft: that the owners of Gunton had taken the

furze, &c.: that the lords, owners, or townsmen, of Corton, Newton, Hopton, and Gorleston, had fed the ground beneath the cliff within the bounds of their several towns, and the lords and townsmen of Kyrkeley and Pakefield had done the same without paying any rent to the manor of Lowestofte, &c.

From notes in the Brief, it appears, that of sundry tenements lying above the cliff at Corton, some are described as abutting "sup: ripam maris," as by deed of fortieth of Edward III., and by other deeds of thirty-second of Henry VI., "super littus maris:" that sundry houses and lands, lying above the cliff in Lowestofte, holden by copy of court-roll, are sided and abutted "sup: mare:" thirty-second Henry VI., Edward Blomefeld was owner of Gunton and bailiff of the manor of Lowestofte. In proof of the depasturage of the inhabitants of Lowestoft, a reference is made to "A letter from Sir William Kingston, Knighte, to thinhabitants of Lowestofte,"—"A letter sent from the inhabts to one Payne, to solicit the Griefe of th' inhabitants in answer to Sir William Kingston,"—"A book of depositions taken by virtue of a letter from Sir William Kingston, Knt., and Nicholas Hare, Esq." That the book was defaced, &c., and that, in the complaint of Blomefeld, he never challenged the soil, but complained to Sir William Kingston for the overcharging the commons by the townsmen of Lowestoft. That all wreck of the sea, and groundage happening upon the Deanes against Gunton is always presented, either by the lord's tenants at Lowestofte, or as of Corton, and never by any tenants in Gunton, which argueth, that the town of Gunton hath not to do under the cliff. 3 and 4 of William and Mary, Thomas Blomefeld entered an obligation to Sir Henry Jernegan for the payment of all the amercements and paynes forfeited by his father and his farmers, not then paid; Gallows' Score being within the bounds of Lowestoft 70 perches, and Halywater Score within the bounds of Corton 95 perches. At Gorleston we have Deanage as at Lowestofte, and also a ferry over the river at Yarmouth: we have the like at Kessingland, where is another ferry that goeth to Cove Hith; for these we are a yearly farm: we have also for groundage et sezage, as by the rolls of Lothinglond appear, &c., and likewise the rolls of Mutford. The evidence of one of the defendant's witnesses is questioned, as at the time he came into the country he was a religious man at Gorleston, which was dissolved 27 Hen. VIII. N.B. The 10s. for the fold-course is still paid to the manor of Lowestoft by the Churchwardens.⁷

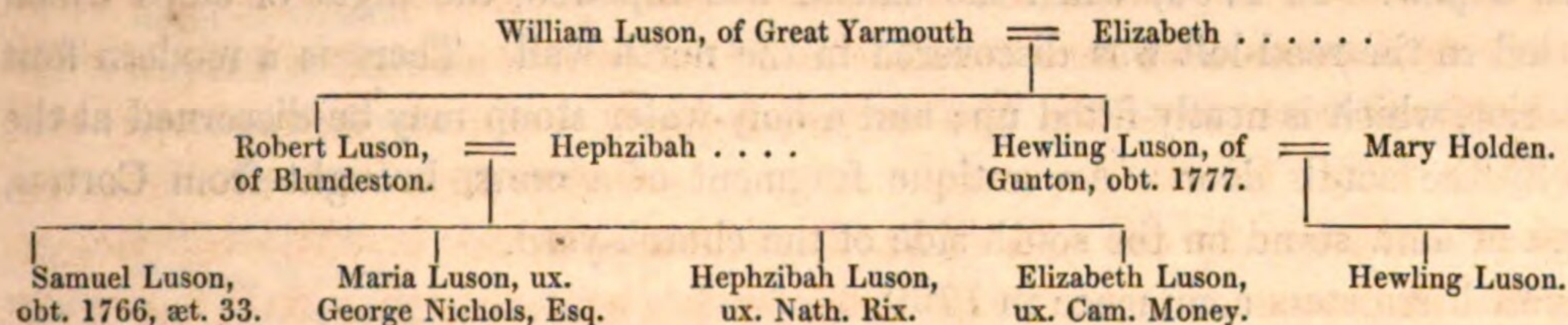
The fish-house and lands of the late Mr. Sparrow, at the north end of Lowestoft, are, by the court-books of the manor of Lowestoft, described as "lying the common way or score, called Gallows' Score, on the north part, and abutteth upon a common path towards the west."⁸ In an old map or view of Lowestoft, Gunton, Corton, &c., once

⁷ MSS. pen. R. Reeve, Esq.

⁸ Idem.

belonging to Thomas Martin, of Palgrave, afterwards to Isaac Gillingwater, and now to Robert Reeve, Esq., of Lowestoft, the first score named to the north of that town is Gunton Score; then Sandhill Score; then Grene Score; then Lopham Score; then Girdle Score; and lastly, Jesuim Score, als Haliwater Score, adjoining to Corton. In the same map or view, within the bounds of Lowestoft, is drawn a beacon upon the cliff; and in the court-books of Lowestoft manor, a dwelling-house and garden adjoining to Mr. Sparrow's are described as "abutting upon Beacon Hill towards the west, and as lying between the Score on the north part. The beacon is not placed very remote from the spot whereon the light-house now stands."⁹

"In the year 1756, Hewling Luson, Esq., of Gunton Hall, having discovered some fine clay or earth on his estate in this parish, sent a small quantity of it to one of the China manufactories near London, in view of discovering what kind of ware it was capable of producing; which, upon trial, proved to be somewhat finer than that called the Deft ware. Mr. Luson was so far encouraged by this success, as to resolve upon making another experiment of the goodness of its quality upon his own premises: accordingly he immediately procured some workmen from London, and erected, upon his estate at Gunton, a temporary kiln and furnace, and all the other apparatus necessary for the undertaking; but the manufacturers in London being apprised of his intentions, and of the excellent quality of the earth, and apprehending, also, that if Mr. Luson succeeded, he might rival them in their manufactory, it induced them to exercise every art in their power to render his scheme abortive; and so far tampered with the workmen he had procured, that they spoiled the ware, and thereby frustrated Mr. Luson's design."¹⁰



The old hall, which adjoins the church-yard, is probably, in part, a very ancient mansion, though it was much altered and improved in 1746, by Hewling Luson, Esq.¹¹ It is now the property of Mrs. Fowler, the widow of the late Thomas Fowler, Esq., who resides in it. This house has obtained a degree of celebrity, as having been some years since the residence of J. D. Downes, Esq., who kept here an excellent breed of hawks, and afforded the neighbouring gentry an opportunity of witnessing the ancient sport of

⁹ MSS. pen. R. Reeve, Esq.

¹⁰ Gillingwater, p. 112.

¹¹ Idem, p. 342.

hawking, so long the favourite amusement of our forefathers, but now nearly extinct, not only in England, but in Europe.

The new hall at Gunton is a spacious and handsome mansion, standing near the north part of the parish, and was erected by the late Thomas Fowler, Esq., about the year 1802.

The parish contains 867 acres and 17 perches of land, of which about 9 acres and 2 roods are glebes. The rent-charge in lieu of tithes amounts to £145, exclusive of £2. 10s. charged on the glebes; and the population in 1841 was returned at 77 souls.

Richard Jamys, of Lowestoft, by his will dated 15th of August, 1540, devised "all my coopy hold land lyeing in Gunton, callyd Wynterwell and Hedgersfield, and Brown's closs."¹²

THE CHURCH,

dedicated to St. Peter, and valued in the King's books at £ 5. 6s. 8d., stands just to the north of the old hall, embosomed amidst lofty and venerable elms. It is an humble fabric, comprising a nave and chancel of the same width, without aisles, having a circular tower at the west end. Its walls are pierced with pointed windows of very narrow dimensions, three of which formerly lighted the eastern end of the chancel. The fabric seems, notwithstanding these features, to have been originally built in the decline of the Norman style, as the door-ways are in the circular form; that on the north side of the nave being richly moulded. The upper part of the tower, in which are no bells, is open to the elements, but the lower portion is ceiled, and the space appropriated as a pew. In 1790, when the church was repaired, the flight of steps which formerly led to the rood-loft was discovered in the north wall. There is a modern font in the interior, which is neatly fitted up; and a holy-water stoup may be discerned at the entrance by the south door. An antique fragment of a cross, brought from Corton, and a broken font, stand on the south side of the church-yard.

The parish registers commence in 1759.

Monuments.—Rev. Francis Bowness, Rector of this parish, Vicar of Corton, and Perpetual Curate of Hopton, died April 29, 1801, aged 68 years. Arms of Bowness, arg. a fess between 3 fusils azure. M. Montagu, died Oct. 25, 1790, aged 1 year and 1 month. S. Chase, 1757. Mary Luson, died 1765. Sarah Luson, died 1757. Charles Colby, Esq., died Dec. 28, 1771, aged 70. The stone placed to the memory of this gentleman was laid down at the expense of the Rev. Francis Bowness, as a token of respect to the memory of his deceased friend. Mr. Colby was a Commissioner of the

¹² Tanner's MSS.

Navy, and died at Gunton Hall. He entered early in life into His Majesty's Service at sea, and had commanded vessels of almost every rate, with the greatest credit to himself and service to his country; was appointed Commissioner of the Navy at Gibraltar, in 1756; and at the conclusion of the Peace, in 1763, returned to England, and spent the residue of his days in peaceful retirement in the mansion-house of his friend, Sir Charles Saunders, at Gunton Hall. Upon his decease the following impartial testimony was borne to his character: "On the 28th of Dec. 1771, died Charles Colby, Esq., &c., &c., whose courage and resolution were so happily tempered with candour and benevolence, that it was difficult to determine whether he was more to be admired as a commander, or respected as a man."

Mr. Charles Boyce, who died Feb. 14th, 1740, aged 81 years, is said, on his monument, to have rebuilt Gunton Church at his own expense, in 1700: a sure and lasting proof of his sincere piety. This good man's chronicler, should, however, have applied the word repaired, and not rebuilt, to his operations here. Mary Ann Boyce, his wife, died Feb. 22, 1735, aged 76.

In the church-yard are tombs to Thomas Fowler, Esq., who died Jan. 22, 1831, aged 71, and Edward Day, of Kirby Bedon, who died July 14, 1842, aged 29.

In this church was formerly the light of the rood-loft, in honour of Our Lord's Passion, Our Lady, and St. Peter.¹³

RECTORS OF GUNTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Alanus de Wysete	1305	John de Gunton.
Roger de Gunton		
Nicholas de Castleacre	1323	Roger de Gunton.
Galfridus de Corton	1338	Roger de Loudham, Knt.
Will. Sharlets de Heveningham	1340	Clement. relict of Roger de Loudham.
John Qwyting	1346	Roger de Loudham.
William Welwyn	1349	John, his son.
Petrus de Baldeswell	1354	Id.
Robert Royse de Weybred	1370	John de Herlyng.
Roger Bert de Brandon	1376	John de Est Herling.
Thomas Goldingham		
Hugo, son of Laurence Fabri of Cres- singham	1388	John Loudham.
John Smith de Folsham	1393	Id.
John Befeld	1408	John Paul and John Boose.
Richard, fil. Wm. Rycher	1430	Robert Palgrave.

¹³ MSS. pen. Epis. Norwic.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Eleyne		
Richard Ferour	1440	Henry Ingloss.
Nicholas Plumstede	1441	Id.
Fr. John Hustyn	1448	Id.
Robert Bradley	1473	Robert Ingloss, Esq.
William Beyham	1504	Rad. Blomevyle, Esq.
John Smith	1511	
John Blomevyle	1530	Edward Blomevyle, Esq.
John Went		
John Blomevyle	1542	Id.
William Bently		
George Pilkinton	1603	Francis Wroote, Esq.
Robert Hawes	1623	Id.
George Gardiner	1639	Elizabeth Holle, of London.
Henry Youell		
John Hudson	1677	Lionel Holle, Gent.
Edward Carleton	1692	Dorothy Holle, widow.
Christopher Reeve	1694	Ead.
Thomas Meadows	1702	Dorothy and Penelope Holle.
Abraham Shewell	1729	William Luson, merchant.
Edward Holden	1758	Hewling Luson, Esq.
Francis Bowness	1760	Id.
The same	1774	Sir Charles Saunders.
Richard Huck	1801	Robert Dundas and others.
Frederic Cook Fowler	1837	Mary Soame Fowler, widow.

Estimatio illius vi marc. Norwic. Domesday.

Herringfleet.

THIS village is written in Domesday Book, and in all ancient deeds, Herlingflet, and Harlingflet. As flet signifies, in the Saxon language, the habitation of a churl or husbandman, the compound probably expresses the farm-stead of the son of Harl. At the time of the Norman Survey, this village was the manor of the King, whose steward was Roger Bigot: it was then impoverished and bleak, containing wood sufficient for the maintenance of only twelve swine, and was valued at 4 shillings.¹ It was afterwards

¹ Domesday: Terra Regis.

the manor of Catharine Fitz-Osbert; and in the reign of King John was held by Roger Fitz-Osbert, who soon after founding a priory in this village, which he dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Olave, the lordship of Herringfleet was conveyed to the Prior of that conventual establishment. Upon the suppression of this house, in 1546, the manor, with other estates in Herringfleet, was granted to Henry Jernegan, Esq., and Frances his wife. On the 7th of April, 1598, Henry Jernegan, the elder, of Cossey, in Norfolk, granted to Henry Jernegan, the younger, his son and heir apparent, in fee, inter alia, the manor of Herringfleet, alias St. Olave's, with the rights and appurtenances. On the 1st of September, in the second of James I., license of alienation, under the Great Seal, was granted from Henry Jernegan, alias Jerningham, jun., Esq., and Eleanor his wife, to Matthew Bedell, in fee; and on the 1st of November following appears an Indrē of bargain and sale, inrolled in Chancery, between Henry Jernegan, alias Jerningham, of Highgate, in the county of Middlesex, Esq., and Matthew Bedell, citizen and merchant tailor of London, being a conveyance to the said Matthew Bedell, his heirs and assigns, of the site of the late dissolved priory of St. Olave's in Herringfleet, and £1. 2s. rent in Thorington, to the said priory belonging; and the manor of Herringfleet, with all the rights, &c., belonging; and all the messuages and swan-marks, fishings, &c., advowsons, tithes, &c., and £1. 6s. 8d. rent from the rectory of Burgh Castle, subject to the payment of £6. 12s. 3d. to the King, and other lords of the fee, as quit-rents.

In August, 1674, Elizabeth Awbrey, widow of Herbert Awbrey, of Clehonger, in the county of Hereford, conveyed the above estates to Edward Taverner, of the same county, Gent., which she inherited as one of the sisters and coheiresses of Thomas Bedell, her brother, deceased, by virtue of a writ of partition, as her third part, &c. Francis Taverner, the son of the above Edward Taverner, conveyed them to Sir Edmund Bacon, of Gillingham, in Norfolk, Bt., in January, 1726, who, on the 13th and 14th December, 1733, sold them to Hill Mussenden, of Quiddenham, in Norfolk, Esq. On the 29th and 30th of June, 1736, Indrēs were executed between Hill Mussenden, of the first part; John Wentworth, alias Creswell, William Lee, Carteret Leathes, and Richard Martin, of the second part; the Right Honourable Martha, Baroness Wentworth, widow of Sir Henry Johnston, Knt., deceased, of Toddington, in the county of Bedford, of the third part; and Martha Johnston, one of the sisters of the said Sir Henry Johnston, of the fourth part: in consideration of a marriage intended between Hill Mussenden and Martha Johnston, the site, lordship, and rectory of Herringfleet, were limited to the said Hill Mussenden, for life; remainder to Martha, his intended wife, for life, for her jointure; remainder to the issue of Hill Mussenden and Martha; remainder to Hill Mussenden, in fee. There was no issue of this marriage. On the 12th of October, 1772, the said Hill Mussenden, by his will, devised all his estates to his brother, Carteret Leathes, Esq., of Bury St. Edmund's, in fee, who had taken the

name of Leathes in conformity to the will of William Leathes, Esq., his uncle. September the 2nd, 1778, Carteret Leathes, by his will, devised his estates in Herringfleet, inter alia, to John Leathes, Esq., his eldest son, in fee; and on the 5th of February, 1786, John Leathes, of Herringfleet, devised them to Elizabeth his wife, for life; remainder to his first and other sons, in tail; remainder to George Leathes, of Bury St. Edmund's, his brother, in fee. This gentleman succeeded to these estates, and dying in 1817, bequeathed them to John Francis Leathes, Esq., of Herringfleet Hall, who is the present possessor, and a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

THE MANOR OF LOUDHAM AND TITSALL'S.

This manor is so called from its ancient possessors, John de Tityshall, or Titsall, and John de Loudham. By an inquisition, without date, taken at Herringfleet, it was returned, that Roger de Loudham held no other lands of the King in capite, nor in sergeantry, but the manor of Herringfleet of John de Loudham, Knight, by the annual payment of a pound of cumin seed (*cuminis*), and that Roger, son of the aforesaid Roger, was his heir.² Blomefield, in his History of Norfolk, mentions an ancient roll of parchment which recited the contents of divers deeds, most of which concerned the estates of the Fitz-Osbert who was lord of Somerleyton in the reign of Henry III., but which contained amongst the rest a conveyance, whereby Roger de Ludham granted, inter alia, a hamlet in Herringfleet, adjoining Somerleyton, of which De Ludham was lord. The Ludhams or Loudhams are a very ancient family in Norfolk and Suffolk. In the reign of Edward I., Robert de Ludham was one of the Justices of the Jews. Having committed a breach of trust, he was brought before the Barons of the Exchequer, put out of his office, and committed to prison. The family is supposed to have assumed their surname from the parish of Loudham in Suffolk, where they flourished for many generations. By an inquisition, taken at "Beckyll," on the 8th of June, in the fifteenth of Henry VIII., upon the death of Edward Jenney, Knight, he was found to have held, inter alia, the manor of Lowdeham, by the annual rent of 6*s.* 8*d.*³ From the family of Jenney this estate passed to that of Ufflet; and on the 29th of January, 1631, John Ufflet, the elder, and John Ufflet, the younger, conveyed the manor of Titshall, &c., to John Hammond. By an inquisition, taken at Harleston, on the death of this John Hammond, Gent., on the 6th of September, in the eighth of Charles I., he was found to die, on the 20th of July, 1632, seized of the manor of Tytshall's and Ludham, &c., in Herringfleet, and 300 acres of land in Askeby, held of the manor of Lothingland

² Harl. MSS. 972, p. 26.

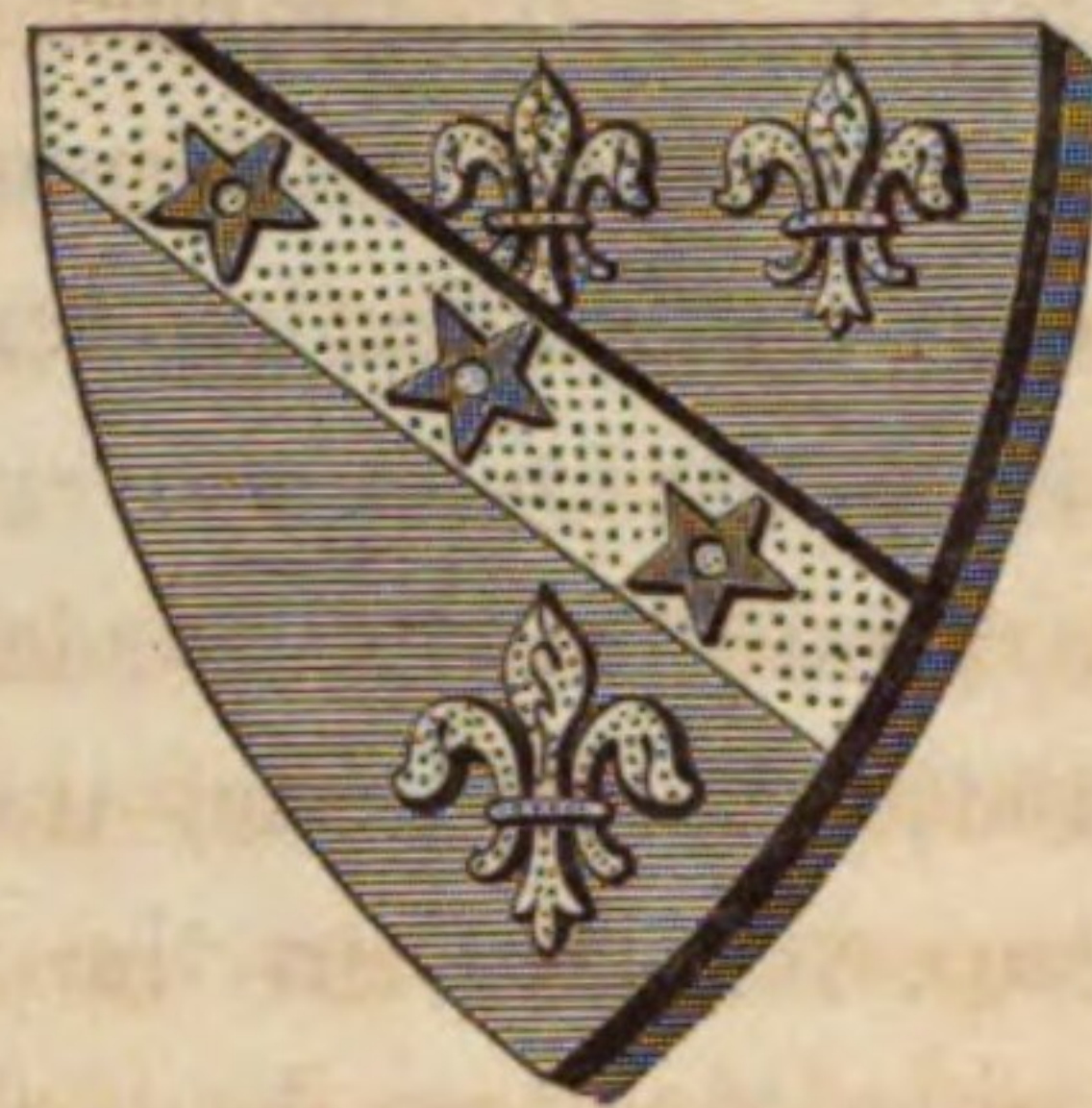
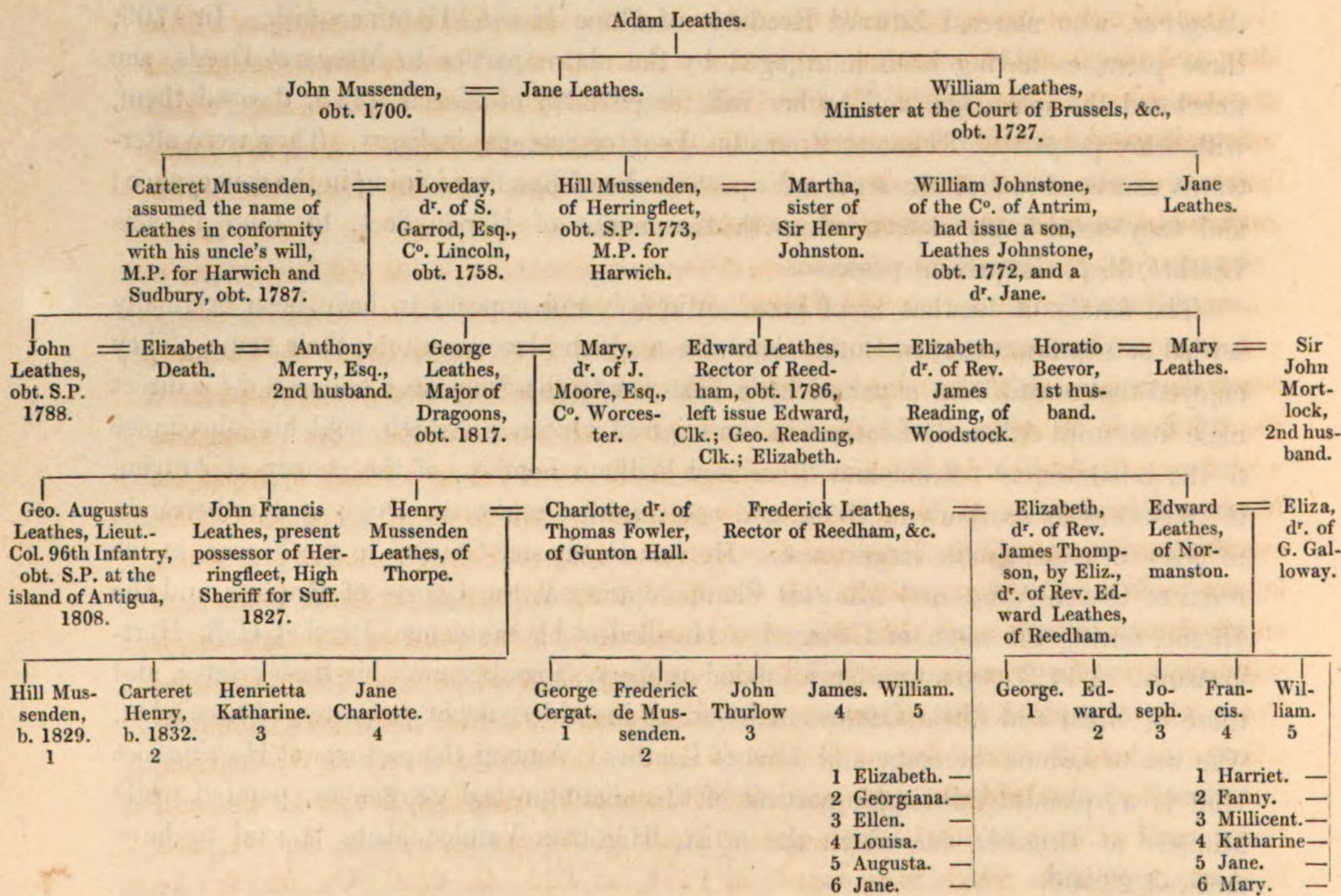
³ Cole's Esch. i. 16.

in soccage.⁴ On the 24th of March, 1650, Richard Hammond, of Ditchingham, in Norfolk, Gent., conveyed to Thomas Meadow, Alderman of Great Yarmouth, a capital messuage, and the site of the manor of 'Titsall's, in Herringfleet, &c., and 290 acres of land there, and passage leading from St. Olave's over the common river to Hadiscoe Dam, and one swan-mark. The family of Rede seems to have had some interests herein, for on April the 7th, 1651, Henry Rede, the elder, of Weston, Gent., and Edward Rede, of North Cove, Esq., released, to the said Thomas Meadow, all their rights in these premises. Sir Thomas Meadow, Knt., by his will, devised, on the 25th of November, 1686, all his estates at Herringfleet, and places adjacent, to Judith his daughter, who married Edward Reading, of Hope House, Hammersmith. In 1706, these premises having been mortgaged by the above parties to Margaret Deeds, she foreclosed the mortgage, and by her will, dated 24th of March, 1718, devised them, with other property, to Thomas Bramston, Esq., of Screens, in Essex. They were afterwards conveyed to Hill Mussenden, Esq., the heirs of Reading joining in the conveyance; and they accordingly descended, with the manor of Herringfleet, to John Francis Leathes, Esq., the present possessor.

The family of Leathes is of great antiquity, and appears to have been originally settled at Leathes-water, in Cumberland, from which place they took their name. They enjoyed that estate from a period little posterior to the Norman Conquest, in a direct male line, until Adam de Leathes, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, sold his inheritance to the inhabitants.⁵ From him descended William Leathes, of the county of Antrim, in Ireland, who was born in 1674, and rose rapidly, under the Duke of Marlborough, to posts of considerable importance. He was Paymaster-General to the Forces, in the reign of Queen Anne, and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Courts of Brussels and the Hague, during the reign of George I. He died at his residence, Brocket Hall, Hertfordshire, in 1727, leaving a large funded property, together with his Irish estates, and those of Great and Little Oakley, in Essex, to his eldest nephew, Carteret Mussenden, who was to assume the name and arms of Leathes. Among the pictures at Herringfleet Hall is a splendid full-length portrait of this distinguished gentleman, painted while Minister at Brussels, for which the artist, Heroman Vander Mij, is said to have received £1500.

⁴ Cole's Esch. iii. 165.

⁵ Nicholson's History of Cumberland, p. 199. "Leathes is a hamlet next unto Wampool, and was so called from a grange or farm, which the lord of Whiterigg had there. From this place the family of Leathes took their surname, which anciently well-nigh the Conquest enjoyed the same."

**Leathes.**

John Mussenden, who married Jane, daughter of Adam Leathes, was the son of John Mussenden, Vicar-General of Down and Connor. He married Penelope Hill, of Hillsbro'. The family of De Mussenden came over with William the Conqueror, and became possessed of the lordship of Mussenden, or Missenden, in Buckinghamshire. Sir William de Mussenden was Grand Admiral of England, temp. Henry I. In the year 1183 he founded an Abbey for Black Canons, at Missenden, in fulfilment of a vow

made during a storm at sea, in which his whole fleet were exposed to the most imminent danger. John Mussenden, the paternal ancestor of the Leathes, was the representative of this family. Mussenden bears, or, a cross engrailed gules; in the first quarter a martlet sable.

The site of Herringfleet Hall was not included in the transfer of the manor and estate from Sir Edmund Bacon to Hill Mussenden, Esq., having been purchased of Sir Thomas Allin. Mr. Mussenden erected a shooting-box on the spot, some rooms of which remain. The present mansion was added to these by the uncle of John Leathes, Esq.,⁶ and is distinguished by a fine collection of paintings, chiefly of the Dutch School.

The old manor-house, originally moated in, is of the age of Elizabeth's reign, or a little later, and stands near the church. It is now a farm-house. There is also a curious old mansion in this village, called Blocker Hall, the property of John Leathes, Esq., which was purchased by Hill Mussenden, of Mr. Le Grys, of Browston.⁷ It bears many features of the Elizabethan style of domestic buildings, but has been too much modernized to form the subject of a sketch.

THE PRIORY OF ST. OLAVE

was founded by Roger Fitz-Osbert, near the ancient ferry across the river Waveney, about the beginning of the reign of Henry III. The site selected for this establishment was a holm, or rising knoll of land, surrounded by bogs and marshes. Such situations were frequently chosen for monastic dwellings in the unsettled ages which followed the Norman Conquest, as affording the greatest security to their inmates. The priory here was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Olave, the king and martyr, and is now solely known by the latter appropriation. It was filled with Augustine or Black Canons, of which there were not more than five or six resident with the prior at the time of its dissolution.⁸ The founder gave to his convent forty acres of land in Tibenham, and Peter, his son, added the advowson of Witlingham.⁹ In 1225, the prior obtained a license to hold an annual fair on St. Olave's day.¹⁰ Besides the church at Witlingham, this monastery obtained the appropriations of those at Herringfleet, Burgh Castle, and Hales; and so early as 1291, had acquired lands in thirteen parishes in Norfolk, and fourteen in Suffolk, which were taxed, in 1291, at £15. 4s. 6½d. On the 3rd of October, 1273, we meet with an agreement "De quadam annuitate 2 marc argenti debit: Abbati et Convent: Sci Martini de Sagio, per Willūm Prior: Si Olav: sup: ripam de Herlingfleet, et ejusd^m loci canonici pro decimis in villa de Uggeshall, Harleston, Bonewelle, Tharleton et Tybenham."¹¹ In the twenty-ninth of Edward I., an agreement

⁶ Ex inf. J. F. Leathes, Esq.

⁷ Idem.

⁸ MSS. Corpus Christi Coll. Camb.

⁹ Blomefield.

¹⁰ Claus. Rolls, 10 Hen. III. m. 20.

¹¹ Aug. Off.

was made between Stephen de Astley, and Benedict, Prior of St. Olave at Herlingfleet; when Stephen remitted to the prior the third part of eight marks, annual rent in East Tuddenham and Tuddenham Faldgate, for the souls of his ancestors.¹² The prior had also rents in Thorrington, and he had a rent of 12*s.* 4*d.* issuing out of the house and lands of the Priory of Blithborough, in Thorrington, which was sold, in 1309, by William Dale, Prior of St. Olave's, to John Multon, and Mary his wife, with a reserved rent of 22*s.* yearly.¹³ The deed was dated "apud Thoriton, die Mercurij prox: post fest: Scti: Matthei, Appli et Evangelist: anno regni regis Edwardi, fil: Regis Edwardi, tertio." Osbert, son of Hervi de Dagworth, gave the manor of Dagworth in Tibenham to this monastery, and the prior paid 7*s.* 1*d.* tax for it, in 1428. In 1392, Richard II. licensed Roger Rogers to grant fifty acres of land, in the same parish, to this convent. Ralph, the son of William de Ferya, by deed without date, granted certain rents in Somerleyton and Herlyngfleet to the church of St. Mary and St. Olave "super ripam de Herlynfleet."

It appears, by the register of Langley Abbey, in Norfolk, that the Prior and Convent of St. Olave's had the tithes of 235 acres of land, in Hales parish, belonging to Langley Abbey, in exchange for 235 acres of land in Loddon and Heckingham, belonging to the Priory of St. Olave's.¹⁴

In the sixteenth of Richard II., it was found that Sir George Felbrigge might grant a messuage and 160 acres of land, in Raveningham, in Norfolk, to the Priory of Herringfleet, held by Ralph Bigot, Nicholas Castell, and William Ingleby.¹⁵

In 1428, the Prior of St. Olave's had 45 acres of land, 3 messuages, 4 acres of meadow, 4 acres of marsh, and 2*s.* rent, in Cringleford, and in Thorp, by Hadiscoe, purchased of Adam Bacon, in 1312.¹⁶ At the Dissolution, in 1534, the clear annual value of the possessions of this house amounted to £49. 11*s.* 7*d.* There is a survey, on paper, of this Priory, made in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Henry VIII., now in the Augmentation Office, of which the following is an abstract.

Prioratus . Sancti . Olavi . in . Herlyngeflete.

Comput: Ministrorum Domini Regis, temp. Hen. VIII.

	£.	s.	d.
Heryngeflete.—Reddit: assis: tam lib: quam nativ: ten:	1	1	4
Freton, Belton, et Bradwell.—Ter: et redd:	0	4	1
Heryngeflete.—Terr: dñic, &c., non respond: quia in manibus prior			
Heryngeflete.—Prat: et terr:	0	16	0
Sumerleyton, Blumston, Flyxton, Oulton, Asseley, et Hopton.—Terr: &c.	4	6	8½

¹² Blomefield,

¹³ Jermyn MSS.

¹⁴ Blomefield,

¹⁵ Idem.

¹⁶ Idem.

	£.	s.	d.
Thurryington.—Ter: et prat:	1	2	0
Bungey.—Terr:	1	6	8
North Cove.—Terr: marisc:	0	1	0
Ravenyngham.—Reddit assis: tam lib: quam nativ: ten:	23	16	6
Ravenyngham.—Terr: dñic: &c.	13	8	10
Ravenyngham.—Perquis: cur:	0	10	0
Tybenham.—Reddit assis:	0	2	1½
Tybenham.—Terr: et ten:	9	9	6
Heryngeflete.—Rector:	4	0	0
Burgh Castell.—Pensio de rector:	1	6	8
Hales.—Pensio de rector:	1	6	8

On the 26th of January, 1546, the King granted the site of this dissolved monastery to Henry Jerningham, and Frances his wife, for the consideration of £ 92. 8s. 6d.¹⁷ The grant is a very long document, reciting the possessions, immunities, and privileges of the house, which were thereby conveyed, with the vicarage of the church, so that the impropiator has both great and small tithes; not the smallest stipend having been reserved for the performance of divine worship.

PRIORS OF ST. OLAVE, HERRINGFLEET.

Anno.	
1273	William.
1300	Benedict.
1308	Thomas de Norwich.
1309	William Dale.
1329	John de Tybenham.
1341	Philip de Horlingland.
1354	John de Surlingham.
1370	Roger de Hadiscoe.
1391	John de Hanewell.
1401	John de Wylughby.
1430	John Wells.
1460	William Bugall.
1468	William Beverley.
1480	Thomas Baget.
1541	William Dale.

The remains of the priory were principally taken down in 1784, though a few walls and disjointed portions of building remain in a very shattered condition. The principal of these are a large room, now used as a barn, said to have been the refectory, and which till within a very few years retained a handsome roof of open timber-work, carved

¹⁷ Bill. Signat. 38 Hen. VIII.

with bosses, and pendants; and a double crypt or vault, now half filled with earth, and converted into dwellings. The view, which illustrates this substructure, was sketched by the writer in the year 1821, when it presented the appearance given in the Plate. It stands east and west, and might not, improbably, form an undercroft to the chapel of St. Mary, which was attached to the conventual church.

Many persons of distinction were interred in this priory. Roger Fitz-Osbert, its founder, who died in 1239, leaves his body to be buried here. Peter, his son, and Beatrix, his widow, also rested within its walls. Joane, relict of Sir Thomas de Loudham, Knt., by her last will, dated at Somerleyton, 25th January, 1399, and proved on the 18th of March following, bequeathes her body to be buried in the priory church of St. Olave, in Luthingland; viz., in the chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary, and on the north side of the same church. Roger Betts, by his last will, dated on the 3rd of December, 1456, desires to be interred in the conventual church of St. Olave, the king and martyr, and appoints Agnes, his wife, and William Drapere, his executors. John Jernegan, of Wirlington Parva, by his last will, dated on the 31st of October, 1474, and proved on the 9th of December in the same year, leaves his body to be buried in the chapel of the Virgin Mary of St. Olave of Herlyngflete, near Agnes, his late wife, where his forefathers were entombed. He bequeathed the patronage of "the foundation of the house of St. Olave's" to John, his son.



S. COMVNE. ECCLIE. SANCTI. OLAVI. DE. HERLINGEFLETE. AD. RIPAM.

St. Olave's bridge, which crosses the Waveney near the site of the ruined priory, superseded a ferry which existed here at a very remote period. "Before the reign of Edward I., this ferry was kept by one Sireck, a fisherman, who received for his trouble bread, herrings, and such like things, to the value of 20s. a year. After his decease, William, his son, did the like, and made it worth 30s. a year. Ralph, his son, also did the same, and had of his neighbours bread and corn, and of strangers, money. And

because the prior of Toft hindered passengers from going through his marsh, the said Ralph purchased a passage through the prior's marsh, paying 12*d.* a year; and of the commoners of Herringfleet, he purchased a way through their common, and was to carry them over at all times free for it, and then it became worth £10 per year. After Ralph's decease, John, his brother, had it, and it was valued at £12 per year. John sold it to Robert de Ludham, who made it worth £15 per year; and he gave it to Roger de Ludham, who held it till the 25th of Edward I., 1296, the time when that King sent out a writ to William de Kerdiston, sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, to inquire what detriment it would be to any person for him to grant leave to Jeffery Pollerin, of Yarmouth, to build a bridge over the river at St. Olave's Priory; and a jury being empanelled, returned, that the building of a bridge there would be to the detriment of Roger de Ludham, and the prior of Toft; but it would be to the great benefit of the country."¹⁸ Whereupon, leave was given; for amongst the patents of the ninth of Henry V., 1420, one is for building a bridge over the water between Norfolk and Suffolk.¹⁹ Notwithstanding this patent, it does not appear that a bridge was really begun till very many years afterwards, in the reign of Henry VII.; when the causeway over Hadiscoe dam, and the bridge at St. Olave's Priory, were constructed at the sole expense of Dame Margaret, the wife of Sir James Hobart, as is recorded on an old inscription formerly in Loddon Church in Norfolk.

Orate p: aia: domine Hobart, uxoris Jacobi p̄dci, que pontem St̄i. Olabi, una cum via strata ad eam ducent: propriis suis impensis boni publici erga, &c.

Gillingwater says "this bridge was found to be so much in decay about 1770, that a new one was forced to be built in its place."²⁰ It will appear, however, that Dame Hobart's bridge was repaired only; that the present structure is, mainly, the same raised by her, and that it is, probably, in a very dangerous condition. In April, 1659, the under-sheriff was ordered to be repaid what he had laid out for the county, amerced at the Assizes for the repairs of this and other bridges. In the same month of the following year, a committee was appointed to view and report the charges of repairing that part of "St. Tooley's bridge" which belongs to the county of Norfolk. In April, 1670, £100 was ordered to be raised on the whole county for the repairs of this part of the bridge; and at various following dates occur continued grants for the same purpose. Notwithstanding which, about 1758, it was presented at Norwich and Beccles Sessions;

¹⁸ Tanner.

¹⁹ Rot. Pat. 9 Hen. V. m. 11. De ponte fabricando ultra aquam vocat. St. Tholowes Ferry, in quadam aqua int. com. Norf. et Suff.

²⁰ Page 42, note.

and accordingly an order was made from both, that it should be viewed, and a report made of the state and condition of it.²¹ The river is in this place 120 feet wide; the bridge has three arches, the middle one only 20 feet wide, and the other two arches only 18 and 17 feet respectively; so that there is a passage of only 55 feet for 120 feet of water. The report was made as follows.

“The depth of the water above the bridge is 14 feet, and below, 18 feet at low water, and under the arch only 8 feet: that the two piers of the said bridge stand upon piles, which piles are about 5 feet above the bed of the river under the said arches; consequently the stone-work of the said bridge stands only about 3 feet into the water upon the said piles: that there is great reason to believe, and it appears from examination, that the said piles, being so much above the bed of the river, are become decayed and hollow: that they have given way on the down-stream side, and have let down the ends of the two piers at least 2 feet below low-water mark; and that the said piles are considerably cracked about 4 feet further from the said ends: that the said piers are got from the upright, at least 2 feet, leaving only 18 feet below, and upwards of 20 feet at the bottom or foot of the arch; but it is to be believed they were in the same situation when the present arch was built upon them, they being then, in all probability, old piers: that the stone-work of the buttresses, on the Norfolk side, stands on piles only 2 feet within the water, and is hollow under: that many of the ribs of the arches are down, several of the remaining ones ready to fall: that the covering of the said ribs is only a sort of flag-stone, about 2 or 3 inches thick, and a brick arch upon the said covering, and become very weak from the loss of the ribs: that the Suffolk arch appears to be in a dangerous state, the crown thereof being very much altered from its original curve: that the whole bridge is only a facing of stone-work, and, having been done at several times, is extremely bulged in many places: that many parts of the said stone-work are become rotten, and are fallen out, and the stone-work of the piers very loose. And 'tis our opinion, with all submission, that it will not be for the utility of the counties, or any ways add to the support of the bridge, to lay out any considerable sum of money in the repair thereof.”

Upon this report, it was thought proper, by the gentlemen of both counties, to apply for a plan and estimate of a single-arch bridge, 60 feet wide, as being the most strong, and impeding the passage of the water less; and having been acquainted that a stone bridge had been lately built, with an arch of 70 feet span, at Wisbeach, by Jeffry Earnell and John Sturman, of Peterborough, for under £2000, these builders were accordingly ordered to be written for, which was done; and Earnell came over, and took a view of the bridge, and sent a plan of a single arch, 55 feet wide, which was

²¹ Jermyn MSS.

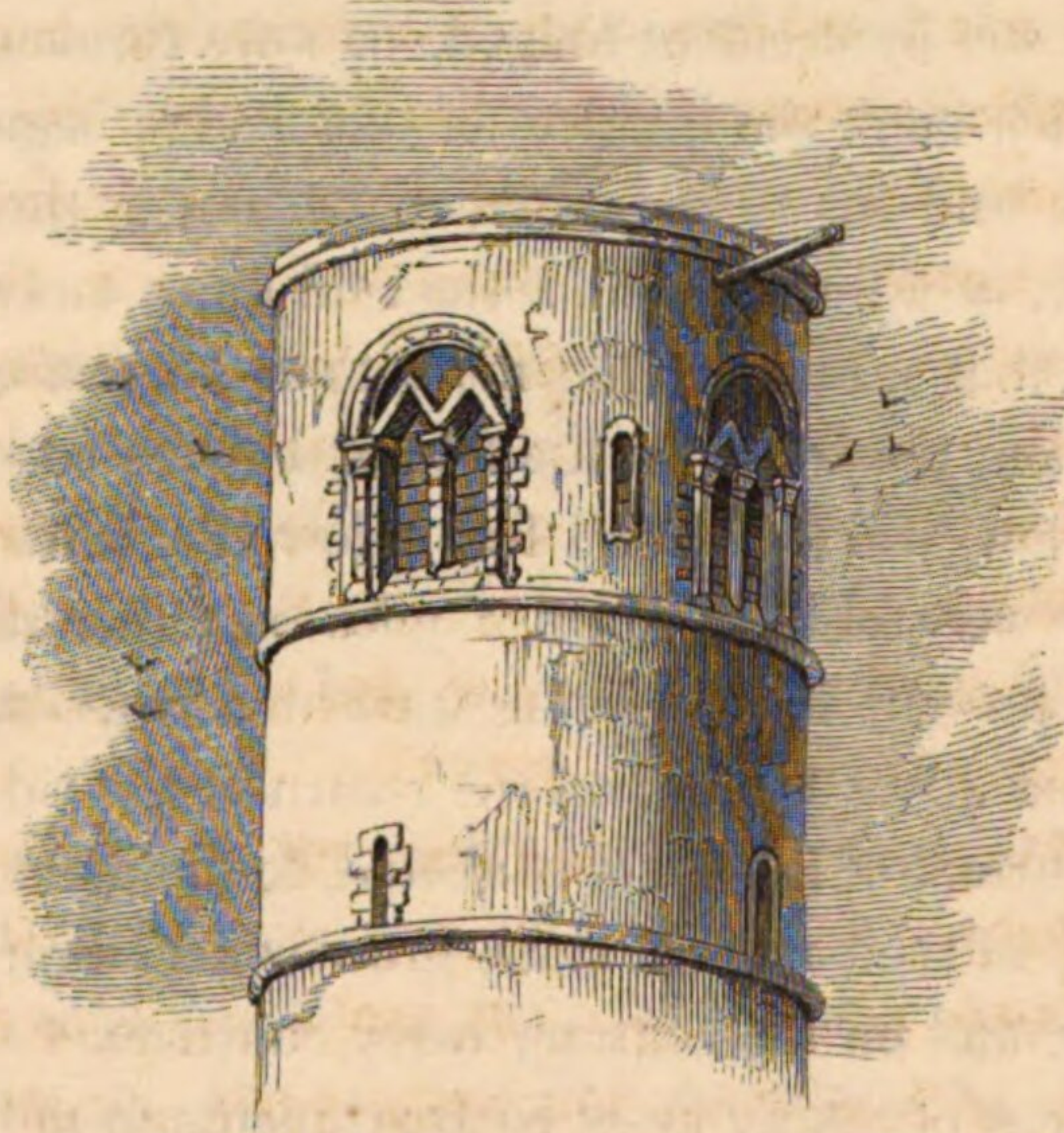
5 feet less than that proposed; undertaking, in his letter which accompanied the plan, to complete the whole in the most neat and workmanlike manner for £2700. His letter is dated Sept. 3rd, 1759. To this a reply was sent, by the directions of Mr. Mussenden, Mr. Page, and the rest of the Justices concerned for the county of Suffolk, disapproving of the proposed width of the new bridge, and expressing a surprise at the amount of the estimate: that if a new one was built, it should be 60 feet wide in the arch; and directing a plan or estimate of such an one. Mr. Earnell, in reply, gave his reasons why the intended bridge would cost more than that at Wisbeach, and that the estimate would not be less than £2800. Nothing more was done till Easter Sessions, 1761, when it was by direction again presented by the chief constables of both counties; and an order was upon that made for Mr. Etheridge, who alone built Walton Bridge over the Thames, and was largely concerned in Westminster Bridge, to examine this at St. Olave's. His report was much the same as that before made; adding, that the present bridge, being one of three arches, having two piers standing nigh the middle of the river, which are about 8 feet thick, these greatly impeded the reflux of the water; there being generally on such reflux 4 inches difference in the height of the water on the up-stream side of the bridge more than below it. Another impediment to the fall of the water was discovered by Mr. Etheridge.

“This place was two or three hundred years a ferry, during which time large quantities of gravel and soil by accident lodged, or were thrown in, and formed a bank across the river; on which bank the builders of this bridge begun their foundations for the forementioned piers, and 'tis to be apprehended, drove their piles pretty nigh the supposed bed of the river, as a foundation for the said piers, and also set their abutments on either side; and by that means left no more than 55 feet out of 120 width of the river. By this contraction, the water on the flux and reflux soon wore away the bed of the river, above and below bridge, several feet below this bank: therefore, in order to support the bridge, they were obliged to drive piles on either side to keep up the bank they had built upon, to prevent it from being washed down,—which is another reason the water is always higher above bridge, on the return of the tide, than below bridge,—and by that means the current of the water is abated, to the great detriment of Yarmouth Haven; for as all rivers, in their natural state, grow wider towards the sea, so of course the water falls the faster, and on the contrary every contraction tends to keeping up the water; and this experiment of taking away encroachments from the river at Larlingford, in Norfolk, has had the desired effect, by preventing the land-floods rising so high there, as before, to the great advantage of all lands above that bridge. In consequence of the great impediment to the flux and reflux of the water, the men, working the crafts, fix the ends of their quants or poles into the joints of the stone-work, to the great injury of the superstructure.”

Such was the substance of Mr. Etheridge's report, who further stated, that when a plan was determined upon, a design might be made, and an estimate given. Nothing, however, was done towards the re-edification of the bridge till 1768, when it was said, by the contractors for the work, Messrs. Tiptod and Green, to have been rebuilt; though an inspection of the substructure would lead us to determine that this assertion can apply to the upper parts only. It is still a steep and narrow bridge, inconvenient and dangerous to the traveller, and obstructive to the navigation of the river.

THE CHURCH

at Herringfleet comprises a nave and chancel without aisles, having a circular tower at the west end. The whole edifice is of Norman construction, though considerable alterations have been effected at various subsequent periods. The tower retains most of its original features, and exhibits, in its upper compartment, circular-headed windows of wide proportions, enclosing double triangular arches. Such, though frequently supposed to indicate a very early date, are occasionally found mixed with mouldings and ornaments of widely different periods,—from the early Saxon age to the middle of the thirteenth century. At Herringfleet they are of undoubted Norman workmanship.



This edifice, also, furnishes an interesting example of the Norman star moulding. The interior, which is neat and reputably kept, has been almost entirely refitted, within the last few years, at the expense of John Leathes, Esq., who has caused the stone-work of the windows to be repaired, and open seats to be substituted for the objectionable pews,—those disfigurements and disgrace of our churches, which are every day giving

way to a more Christian feeling and a better taste. In the present instance, the finials are richly and laboriously carved, though the models have not been very happily chosen.

In the north wall is an inarched tomb, of early English character, now hidden by the panel-work, under which, perhaps, rest the ashes of a former lord,—a Loudham, or a Titeshall. The screen has been removed, and placed in front of the gallery, where it produces a good effect, which would have been considerably heightened by the removal of its paint. The modern substitute for the font is unworthy of its situation. The east window, and two on the south side of the chancel, have been filled with stained glass, the greater part of which is ancient, and obtained from a monastery in France. The general effect of this is good, and many of the tints possess an exquisite richness of colouring. In the centre of the east window are the arms of Leathes, with other shields, of which, that charged with a lion rampant gules, crowned or, impaling a cross engrailed, is entitled to especial notice for the beautiful manner in which the ground is diapered. The arms of Edward the Confessor, St. Edmund, Barnwell, gules, a saltire raguly between four crescents argent,—Soame, with the mallets falsely coloured,—Vert, a tortoise pass. argent, &c., sparkle amidst various other devices. The scriptural subjects represent, the Flight into Egypt, the Expulsion of our First Parents from Paradise, Judas and the Officers, the Adoration of the Magi, Our Lord's Agony in the Garden, the Last Supper, with many others; and the following legends. *Adjutor meus omnipotens. A softe gentle answer swayeth ferse yre. In Dom: confido, &c.* At the bottom of the window are these words: *Adm Rdus et eximius Pater P: Edmundus Bungar S. S. Scē Thliæ doctor, ordinis fratrum Minorum S. Francisci conventualium almæ proiæ Coloniensis, ex provincialis et commissarius generalis diffinitor perpetuus et almi conventus Coloniensis actualis Guardianus P. anno 1692.*

According to the Lansdowne MSS., the following armorial bearings formerly ornamented the chancel windows of this church. Sir Roger Loudham, arg. 3 scutcheons sab. Mauteby, with an annulet sable. Jenney, with an annulet arg. impaling erm. on a fess gules, 3 fleurs-de-lis or, in a bordure b.

Monuments.—Hill Mussenden, Esq., died Nov. 23, 1773, aged 72. John Leathes, died Jan. 6, 1787, aged 49. Anna, uxor Thomæ Bedell, de S: Olav: in Herringfleet, Suff: Generosi, obt. 22 Aug. 1656. Arms, Bedell, on a chev. between 3 escallops a fleur-de-lis. Judith, wife of John Perry, died Dec. 1691, æt. 50. On hatchments are the arms of Leathes, impaling sab. a swan displayed prop. within a bordure engrailed or. Leathes, with D'Aeth in pretence; sab. a griffin pass. or, within 3 crescents argent.

John Reppys, of Herringfleet, by his last will, dated Sept. 23, 1473, and proved on the 7th of December following, leaves his body to be buried in the chancel of the church of St. Margaret at Herringfleet, and bequeaths to the church two acres of arable land,

upon this condition, that the parishioners shall hold his anniversary for ever. He also devises to the tabernacle of St. Mary, in the aforesaid church, one coomb of wheat, and two coombs of malt.

The parish registers commence in 1706.

Herringfleet is an impropriate rectory. There is not any parsonage-house or glebe lands in this parish. The church-yard contains about two roods of land. All tithes belong to the lay impropriator. The church, except the chancel and church-yard fence, are kept in repair by the occupiers of the lands in this parish: the clerk is appointed by the lay impropriator, and is paid customary wages by the parish.²²

HERRINGFLEET ST. MARGARET.

No licenses.—A Donative.²³

Prior S: Olavi habet eam in proprios usus. Estimatur ad x marc. Norwich Domesday.

Population of Herringfleet in 1841,—197 souls.

Charities.—The poor's allotment comprises 6 ac. 35 p., awarded at the enclosure, the rent of which is distributed in coals. Mrs. Elizabeth Merry bequeathed £ 20 for the education of poor children of this parish, to provide for which annuity a sufficient sum of money was laid out in the purchase of stock in the public funds.

Hopton.

THE manor and advowson of Hopton were granted by William Rufus to the Prior and Convent of the Holy Trinity at Norwich, by which establishment the revenues of the latter were subsequently appropriated, and the benefice served by a curate.

In 1306, the Prior obtained a license of free-warren in his lands here, and in Lothingland.¹ The cellarer of the priory had £ 2. 5s. 6d. rent in this parish, and a yearly portion of £ 1. 1s. 4d. from the church. At the dissolution of religious houses, this estate was transferred to the Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral, with whom it remains. It pays xvij^d. to the court of East Leet.²

In a general Chapter in the Cathedral, held 6th June, 1693, the following Act was made. "Whereas the Rectory of Hopton, in the county of Suffolk, and Deanery of

²² Terrier.

²³ Lib. Instit. Norwic.

¹ Carta 35 Ed. I. n. 68.

² East Leet Rental.

Lothingland, appropriated to this Cathedral church, will, on the 10th of November, anno 1694, fall into the hands of the Dean and Chapter of the said church, their lease of 21 years to the present tenant then expiring; in consideration that the value of it is but £ 24 per an. at the utmost; and therefore it cannot be of any valuable income to the tenant, the annual reserved rent and corn-rent being paid to the said Dean and Chapter, without defrauding the said church and parish of Hopton of the ministerial duties to be there performed to the honour of God and salvation of the souls of the inhabitants of the said parish: for the avoiding hereof it is agreed and ordered by this present general Chapter, that the said rectory of Hopton shall be no more let and demised to any lay farmer and tenant, but that it be, for the future, always let and demised to him whom the said Dean and Chapter shall appoint to serve the said cure of Hopton, for the term of 21 years, on the conditions,—1st, That he so long live, and shall continue personally to serve the cure of the said parish, by reading divine service, and preaching, at least once every Sunday. 2ndly, That he pay the annual rent and corn-rent reserved to the said Dean and Chapter, on the former lease. 3rdly, That he do, over and above the said reserved rent and corn-rent, pay an additional rent of 20s. every year, in lieu of the fine, which at seven years, and according to the manner and custom of renewing leases generally practised and followed by the said Dean and Chapter, may amount to £ 7 for the said rectory of Hopton. In pursuance of this Act or order, the said rectory of Hopton was demised to Mr. Skeet, the minister of the parish, upon the conditions above mentioned, Feb. 13, 1694. The rent and usual allowance for serving this church once a month,—for till this order it was never otherwise,—amounted to £17 per annum, which being deducted, there remained £ 7 clear income of one year's value to be the fine for renewing after seven years are expired; so as the augmentation must amount to at least £ 6 per annum to the former allowance of the minister. This good design was carried on by the publick spirit of the Rev. Dr. H. Prideaux, then Prebendary, now Dean, of the said church, who had gained the assent and concurrence of all the other prebendaries for doing the same in all their other appropriated churches; and accordingly an order was made for it at a general Chapter, but the late Dean, Dr. F., protested against it, and for that time broke the whole design.”³

This equitable arrangement was discontinued upon the death of the Rev. Francis Bowness, in 1801, when the rectory was sold by the Dean and Chapter to a lay proprietor, who holds the same by leases in perpetuity, renewing the term from time to time.

In the reign of Edward III., John de Herlyngs granted to George de Felbrigge,

³ Bishop Kennet's Case of Improvements, p. 331, &c.

Thomas Caus, of Hookham, Master Walter Wyatt, clerk, Robert de Swafham, parson of the church of West Herlyngs, and Jacob de Heyham, clerk, the manor of Corton, and all other his lands and tenements, rents and services, in Corton, Hopton, Gunton, Lowystoft, Blundeston, Oulton, Flyxton, Lound, Belton, Bradewell, Gorlyston, Carlton, and West Gernemouth, and elsewhere, within the Hundred of Lothyngland; and a windmill in Corton, and the moiety of a house there. Witnesses, John de Launey, Knt., Thomas Rose, John Atte Well, de Walton, jun., Richard Turald, John Botyle, John Clerk, William Rycott, and others. Dated at Corton, Monday next after the Feast of the Translation of St. Thomas, forty-ninth Edward III.⁴

THE HAMLET OF BROTHERTON.

This village contains the hamlet of Brotherton, which name it acquired from its Saxon owner, Broder, who held it at the time of the Domesday Survey. It was then returned as a manor valued at 5 shillings.

The parish of Hopton contains, according to a survey made in July, 1839, 1267 acres, 1 rood, 2 perches of land, of which 5 acres, 2 roods, and 4 perches, are glebe. The gross value of the tithes is £380, and the Perpetual Curate receives little more than £100 per annum.

A large tract of heath land in this village was enclosed a few years since under the Corton, Hopton, and Gorleston Enclosure Act, and is now in a high state of cultivation. Thomas Anguish, as lord of the manor of Gapton Hall, claimed an extensive right of commonage here, and such part of the mill-water, with the exclusive right of fishing therein, as belonged to this parish. These claims were admitted, and 10 feet of land assigned him on every side, beyond the margin of the mill-stream. This property is now held by Mr. Peto.

THE CHURCH

is dedicated to St. Margaret, and comprises a nave and chancel of the same width, having a north aisle running the entire length of the fabric. Both roofs are covered with thatch. At the west end stands a square tower containing one bell, and on the north side of the aisle is a good porch of stone. The interior is divided throughout by an arcade of pointed arches, which rest on octangular pillars having plain banded capitals. Many of these lean fearfully towards the north. The walls are pierced with narrow lancet windows, and those on the north side are cusped. The chancel window is of three lights in the early English style, and a window of the Decorated period

⁴ Carta orig. pen. Thos. Hankey, arm.

occupies the east wall of the aisle, on each side of which is a large and deep niche. This portion of the aisle seems to have been originally a chantry chapel, having an altar under the east window; a piscina and a double closet, or aumbry, still remaining unclosed with masonry. The font is octangular, of a very usual pattern. On shields in some of its panels are the emblems of the Passion, and of the Trinity. There are several old floor-stones without memorials in various parts of the church, and near the entrance-door is the foot of an ancient cross.

Monuments.—Mary, the wife of Christopher Sayers, died 6th of May, 1786, aged 66. He died Feb. 19, 1792, aged 72. John Sayers, died Nov. 17, 1794, aged 46. Elizabeth his wife, died May 30, 1794, aged 39. Ann, their daughter, died Aug. 10, 1790, aged 9 years. Christopher, their son, died Aug. 23, 1795, aged 11 years, and two of their children died infants.

Sacred to the memory of John Sayers, Esq., born the 17th of January, 1782, who, after serving 16 years with distinguished credit in His Majesty's Revenue Service, was, while in the command of the *Ranger* cutter, and in the zealous discharge of his duty, shipwrecked off Happisburgh Sand, in a sudden storm, on the night of the 17th of October, 1822, and perished with all his crew.

James Sayers, died in 1827, aged 69. Sayers bears gules, a chev. erm. between 3 birds proper.

To the memory of the Rev. Bartholomew Ritson, M.A., 34 years Perpetual Curate of this parish. He was suddenly attacked by illness in the pulpit of this church, after preaching, on the 29th of March, 1835, and died on the following day, aged 67.

By his will, amongst other benevolent bequests (after the decease of relatives), he gave to trustees a sum of money, augmenting the annual value of this Perpetual Curacy, and six pounds per annum for purchasing bread, to be given weekly to the most deserving poor of this parish. His remains are buried in Lowestoft church-yard.

James Barber, died 23rd of May, 1842, aged 70. Elizabeth his wife, died 29th of Sept. 1842, aged 78.

The oldest register-book commences in December, 1673.

PERPETUAL CURATES OF HOPTON.

Curates.	Date.	Patrons.
John de Brantone . . .	1308	Prior and Convent of Norwich.
Galfridus de Wotton . . .	1316	Id.
Richard de Stratton . . .	1329	Id.
Thomas de Specteshall . . .	1349	Id.
Thomas Whytyng . . .		
John Clere de Wenaston . . .	1360	Id.
Walter Spendlove . . .		

Curates.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Atte Hyll . . .	1373	Prior and Convent of Norwich.
Thomas Hern de Martham	1376	Id.
John Hacoun . . .	1378	The Bishop.
John Hakoun de Sloly . .	1395	Prior and Convent of Norwich.
. Skeet . . .	1694	Dean and Chapter of Norwich.
Sir John Castleton . . .	1725	Id.
Francis Bowness . . .	1773	Id.
Bartholomew Ritson . . .	1801	Id.
Miles Branthwayte Beevor	1835	Id.
Edmund Smith Ensor . .	1836	Id.
Thomas William Salmon . .	1841	Id.

Estimatio ejusdem xvi marc.

A piece of land, comprising 8 acres, 1 rood, 18 perches, now let on lease at £19. 10s. per annum, was bequeathed for the reparation of the church. An allotment of about 20 acres was awarded on an enclosure, which lets in separate parcels, amounting together to £25 per annum, which is applied in aid of the poor-rate.

A rent-charge of 6s. 8d. a year is paid out of a farm in this parish belonging to Thomas Thornhill, Esq., which is distributed among poor widows at Christmas. The origin of this charity is unknown.

Population of Hopton in 1841,—251.

Lound.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor this village was divided into two manors, held by Alric and Ulsi, who were free-men of Earl Gurth. That chieftain seems, also, to have retained a small portion of the domain in his own hands, and to have possessed a beruite containing two carucates of land, with wood sufficient for fifty swine. No church is noticed in the Survey, but the entire village was rich in sheep and cattle. The Earl's estate, and that of Ulsi, were respectively valued at ten shillings, which valuation they retained at the period of the Domesday Survey. Alric's property had risen from a like appreciation to twenty shillings. The Conqueror held the whole in his own hands under the stewardship of Roger Bigot, when it was, probably, considered as one manor; though the ancient tripartite division of this parish subsequently branched out into three distinct lordships.

The manor of Lound was held by Robert de Blundeston in the ninth of Edward I.,¹ though in 1392, Sir John de Tuddenham died seized of it in right of his wife, widow of Sir John de Herlyng or Harling. It afterwards reverted to that family, and passed to Anne, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Harling, who was slain at Paris in 1435. Sir William Chamberlain, her first husband, presented to the rectory in 1450, and Sir Robert Wingfield, her second husband, died in 1480, seized, *inter alia*, of this manor and advowson. These afterwards passed to the families of Jernegan, Wentworth, Garneys, Allin, and Anguish. Descending by heirship to Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne, the manor of Lound, then united with the other lordships in this parish, as will be presently shown, was sold by that nobleman in August, 1844, to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., the present possessor. The advowson of Lound, being at the same time separated from the manor, was purchased by Benjamin Dowson, Esq., of Great Yarmouth.

From the year 1674, if not from an earlier period, the title of the lordship has been the manor of Corton and Newton, with Stalham's in Lound.² For on the 2nd of October, in the above-said year, Thomas Allin held his first court with attornments under that title.³ On the 12th of May, 1570, John Jernegan, of Somerleyton, conveyed to trustees, among other estates, the manor of Stalham's to certain uses; and in 1619, John Wentworth, Esq., died seized of the manor of Stalham's, and the lands, tenements, and appurtenances, in Lound, Ashby, Blundeston, and Corton,⁴ so that this manor was, most probably, conveyed to Sir Thomas Allin, Knt. and Bart., in 1672, by Thomas Garneys, Esq., and others.

Robert Bayspoole, Gent., held his first court as lord of the manor of Lound in the fifteenth of Elizabeth, 1573; and on the 14th of November, 1603, Walter Devereux, Knt., held his first court as lord, in right of Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heiress of Robert Bayspoole, Gent. On the 8th of May, 1619, Sir Walter Devereux, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, and others, conveyed, for £1200, the said manor, &c., to John Jenney and Samuel Matchett, in trust, for Sir John Heveningham and his heirs.⁵ Whether this estate was the manor of *Lound*, or other lordships in this parish, does not appear clear to the writer, though he is induced to believe it could not have been the former; and unfortunately the manuscripts in the Episcopal Office at Norwich, which, by recording the names of the patrons of the livings, throw much light, in many cases, on the descent of the manors, do not here assist us, for there is a gap of nearly a century in the list of incumbents at this period. A great variety of deeds clearly show that there were, before the sixteenth century, three distinct manors in this parish,⁶ which, having

¹ Mag. Brit.² Court Books.³ Idem.⁴ Inq. p. mort.⁵ MSS. R. Reeve, Esq., of Lowestoft.⁶ Idem.

been long united, and their courts blended, add to the intricacy of the present inquiry.

On the 28th of March, thirty-fourth of Elizabeth, John Wentworth, of Somerleyton, for divers good and reasonable causes, gave, granted, and confirmed unto the master, wardens, and scholars of Christ's College, Cambridge, an annual rent, or annuity of £ 4, issuing out of his manor of Stalham's, payable on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, with power to the said master, &c., to distrain for arrears. The master, &c., to distribute, by half-yearly payments, the said annuity to one scholar, being a fellow of the said house, and proceeding in degree of schools to be B.D. or M.A. and Student in Divinity, to read a Hebrew lecture with the said college. On his quitting the college, the stipend to cease, and a new member to be elected; and that the said John Wentworth should, during his life, nominate and appoint the said reader; and after his death, John Wentworth, his son, and heir apparent; and on his decease, the reader should be elected and chosen from time to time by the master and wardens, and the majority of the fellows. From the smallness of this salary no lecturer is now appointed by the college.

In the Gentleman's Magazine⁷ is an account of a singular discovery of antiquities made in 1776, by William Warner Mills, whilst ploughing in his field in this parish. The objects discovered consisted of a celt, a bill-hook or military weapon, and a fibula, together with helmets and some portions of armour. These were exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries on the 1st of May, 1788, and were then the property of Mr. Daniel Boulter, of Great Yarmouth, in whose museum, at that town, they were afterwards preserved, but have been since dispersed. It is related that several ingots of gold were also ploughed up at the same time, which the farmer, regarding as pieces of rusty iron, used as weights for the purpose of sinking his hemp in the adjoining stream, where they were gradually lost, with the exception of one. This, after having been long thrown about as an useless piece of lumber, was one day broken by an accidental blow, when the yellow and glittering surfaces of the fracture betrayed, too late, the value of what had been lost. The tale is unquestionably founded in fact, though the worth of the ingots has been, probably, too highly estimated.

THE CHURCH

at Lound is a rectory, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and comprises a nave and chancel, with a circular tower at the west end, in which hang three bells. The nave is lofty and well proportioned, but, like many of the Suffolk churches, is open to an ugly

⁷ Gents. Mag. lviii. p. 593.

covering of thatch. Entering the chancel through a screen of carved wood-work, the eye is instantly arrested by an harmonious effect, the result of justness of proportion and simplicity of outline. Its minuter ornaments consist only of a few old open benches, with a piscina and the seats of its ancient sedilia. There is a fine east window of early perpendicular character, but the prevailing architecture of the pile refers its era to the reign of Henry III., if we except the south porch, whose square-headed arch and spandrils are indicative of a later period. Between the north and south doors of the nave stands a good octangular font, bearing in its sculptured panels the emblems of the Evangelists. Near the base is an inscription in old English character, cut in the stone, but much mutilated. I think, however, the following is a correct reading of the legend.

✠ Orate pro aīa dñi Joh̄is Casteli p̄lectoris eccl̄ie de Norwic qui fecit fieri h̄nc fontē baptis̄m.

Among some fragments of stained glass in the nave are the following armorial bearings. Argent, a cross sable, for the Deanery of Norwich; and, argent, fretty azure, semee de lis or, on a canton gules an etoile of the third.

Monuments.—Susanna, daughter of James and Anne Jenner, died Nov. 3, 1781, aged 18. Anne, wife of James Jenner, died Oct. 26, 1781. James Jenner, died March 10, 1804, aged 86. Sarah Thompson, died Aug. 31, 1813, aged 58. Daniel Maw, died Feb. 15, 1775, aged 55. James Fisher, Esq., late of Gt. Yarmouth, died Jan. 29, 1837, aged 81. Helen, his relict, died Feb. 11, 1840, aged 75.

Fisher bears, gul. 3 demi lions or, and a chief of the second, with an inescutcheon thus charged,—sab. a lion ramp. or.

Charles Fisher Burton, Esq., of Gt. Yarmouth, and of Jacobstowe, in the county of Devon, died Sept. 2, 1838, aged 60. Arms, Burton, sab. a fess or between 3 owls arg. crowned of the second, impaling Fisher.

Hugh, son of Samuel and Sarah Bell, died Aug. 3, 1818. Samuel Bell, late of Hopton, died Jan. 27, 1844, aged 75.

There are several floor-stones in the nave and chancel from which brass effigies have been reaved.

In the church-yard is a large altar-tomb placed to the memory of Edward Thompson, who died July 13, 1826, aged 44. Arms, Thompson, quarterly, 1st and 4th, az. a lion pass. or; 2nd and 3rd, arg. a lion ramp. guard., gules, impaling 1st, Wilkinson, gules a chev. chequee arg. and az. between 3 conch-shells or; 2ndly, Fisher.

The earliest registers at Lound commence in 1695.

The commutation in lieu of tithes has been fixed at £ 407, and there are 22 acres and 24 perches of glebe land.

RECTORS OF LOUND.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Alan de Lound	1310	Roger of Ludham.
Henry de Jahele	1310	Id.
Stephen de Herlyngflete	1325	Id.
Richard de Hadesco	1349	Matilda, widow of Roger de Ludham.
William, son of Humphrey de Toftes	1349	John, son of Roger de Ludham.
John Everard	1365	Simon de Barnyngham.
John Bertelot	1377	John de Herlyng.
John Bertelot de Snetterton	1389	John Tuddenham.
Galfridus Symond	1404	Radulphus de Schelton.
John Brown	1405	Id.
Edmund Sweyn	1425	John Fitzrauf, Esq.
Edmund Atte Welle	1429	William Berdewell, Esq., and others.
Thomas Prymor	1450	William Chamberleyn, Knt.
Thomas Ennok	1460	Id.
Thomas Crosse	1475	Robert Wingfield, Knt., in right of his wife, Ann.
John Bendys	1479	Edward, Bishop of Chichester, and others.
Robert Barker	1482	Ann, widow of Robert Wingfield.
Robert Weting, Prior of St. Mary, Thetford	1489	Ead.
John Talyor	1492	Ead.
William Beyham		
Peter Major	1515	John Jernegan, Esq.
Thomas Hodgeson	1523	Id.
John Redwiche	1566	E. Jerningham, widow.
James Aspinall	1573	James Towne.
Robert Melling	1579	John Jernegan, Esq.
John Tubbing		
Robert Hobson	1670	Thomas Garneys, Esq.
John Smyth	1681	Sir Thomas Allin, Knt.
Francis Langley	1690	Id.
Robert Barron	1691	Id.
Robert Camell	1717	Peter Scott, Merchant, p. h. v.
Samuel Killett	1733	Samuel Killett, sen., p. h. v.
Norton Nicholls	1767	William Turner, p. h. v.
George Anguish	1810	The King, by reason of lunacy.
Edward Thurlow	1816	George Anguish, Clk.
Edward Thurlow	1824	Id.

Estimatio illius xii marc.

The Reverend Edward Thurlow, the present incumbent of Lound, is descended from William Thurlow, of Burnham Ulph, in the county of Norfolk, who lived tempore

Henry VIII., and whose will bears date 31 July, 1537, and creates Hugh, his son, his heir, who is styled of Burnham Ulph, as are also the descendants of this Hugh Thurlow, fathers and sons in lineal descent, until we arrive at Thomas Thurlow, who was Rector of Wortham, in Suffolk, and appears, therefore, to have been the first of the family who settled in this county: he inherited lands by the will of his first cousin, John Thurlow, a great traveller in Europe, Asia, and America, who had a grant of arms under the hand and seal of Sir Edward Bysshe, Knt., Clarenceux King of Arms, 19 November, 1664. Thomas, the son of the Rector of Wortham, married Elizabeth, a lineal descendant of Sir Richard Hovell, esquire of the body to King Henry V.: he sold lands in the Burnhams to the Honourable Horatio Walpole, February 30, 1729; and was the father of Lord Chancellor Thurlow,—Thurlow, Bishop of Durham,—and John Thurlow, Mayor of Norwich, who married Josepha, daughter of John Morse, Esq., of Norwich, and left a daughter and only son, Edward South Thurlow, late a Prebendary of Norwich, who by his first wife, Elizabeth Mary, daughter of James Thompson, Esq., had, besides other younger children, Edward, now Rector of Lound.⁸

Charities.—An allotment of 20 acres, 2 roods, 18 perches, was awarded, on the enclosure, for the use of the poor of this parish, which lets for about £34 per annum; and the rent is laid out in the purchase of coals. An annuity of six shillings was given by John Spalding, to be distributed quarterly among the poor of the parish, in bread. This gift is charged on a cottage and a few acres of land in Lound.

Population of Lound in 1841,—412.

Oulton.

OULTON is not recorded in Domesday Book under its present name, though the ancient church, which was founded here very soon after that period, proves it to have been early a place of more than ordinary village importance. Among the lands of Roger Bigod, his tenant, Robert de Vallibus, is recorded as holding a manor in Lothingland, called Duneston, which, in the Confessor's time, had been the property of Ala.¹ If we had any reason to conjecture that the estate was ever called after its Saxon owner, the cor-

⁸ Thurlow Evidences. John Thurlow, Mayor of Norwich, was buried in North Cove church-yard, in 1782.

¹ Dunestuna tenuit Ala. comd. Mannis XL. v. acr. p. m. et dim. bor. semp. dim. car. silua ad IIII por. dim. acr. pti. tnc. ual. x sol. m°. III. hoc ten&. R. de ual. libz. de R. bigot. Domesday, fol. 336.

ruption, from Alaton to Olton and Oulton, would be apparent. Duneston, however, signifies 'the town on a hill;' exactly answering the situation of this village, which rises abruptly from the water: and it is not a little remarkable that the manor of Oulton is written in deeds of the fifteenth century, and even earlier, "manerium de Oulton, vocat: Houghton Hall," that is, the Hoogh, or High Town. The manor-house is known, at the present day, as the High House. I am induced, therefore, to think that the Duneston of Domesday Book, which is not elsewhere appropriated, must be identical with Oulton.

In the reign of Henry III. the manor and advowson of Oulton, even then written Houlton, were the property of the family of Bacon; and from the fact that they bore the bend lozengee on their shield, in addition to the mullets on a chief, they were unquestionably derived from the same stock, if not the same branch of the ancient family tree, represented by the knight of Gorleston.² Although the christian names of the successive lords of Oulton of this family agree with those in Sir Gilbert Dethick's genealogical table of the Bacons,³ the order of descent does not correspond; so that it is difficult, if not impossible, to trace their identity with the earlier generations therein recorded.

In 1280, Edmund Bacon was lord of the manor of Oulton,⁴ who appears to have been succeeded by Sir John Bacon, Knt.,⁵ who presented to the church in 1301. His successor, Sir Adam Bacon,⁶ left a son named Sir Edmund Bacon, whose widow Margery held this estate in dower, in 1356, as of the king, in capite.⁷ Sir Edmund must have died in this year, because he is mentioned in a roll of that date.

Fin: inter Edm. Bacon, et Margeriam uxem ejus, et Tho. Bradwell, pson ecclie de Salle, et Rob^t de Jernemuth deforc. de maner. de Houton iij mess. 1 molend. xij ac. ter. xij. ac. prati, xx ac. past. lx ac. marisci, et c^s red. cum p^{ti}n in Oulton, Carleton, Lowestofte, et Flixton, et advoc. ecclie de Olton.⁸

The above descents, though verified by the references given, are in some measure rendered confused by the following roll, which makes the manor to have been held of the Countess of Pembroke, at a rent of xij^s. ij^d.⁹

"Margeria que fuit uxor Edi. Bacon, chr. tenuit man. de Houlton in dote, p. mortem dcī Edi: quod quid. manerium, cum advoc. ecclie de Houlton, Rob. de Askeby, psona ecclie de Ingham, dedit Ade Bacon, et hered. de corpē suo &c. q^d si conting: sine hered. de corp. suo obiet, reman. pdct Edō et her. masc. et reman. rectis hered. Ade. Et ten. de Comitisse Pemb: p. xij^s. ij^d. Et Robtus Bacon, chr. fil. Hen. Bacon consang. p^{ri}dici Ade etat xxx annor. est heres dcī Ade."

² Vol. i. p. 374. ³ Betham's Baronetage, vol. i. pp. 2, 27. ⁴ Mag. Brit. ⁵ Lib. Instit. Norwic.

⁶ In the Parliament Rolls, v. ii. p. 198, is a grant of Johan Bacoun and Adam Bacoun, of the manor of Benhall, with 28 mess., 454 acres of land, 22 of meadow, 200 of pasture, 124 of wood, 2 mills, 25 knights' fees, et le marche.

⁷ Esch. Rot. 31 Ed. III. Harl. MSS.

⁸ Esch. 31 Ed. III.

⁹ Harl. MSS. 5193, fol. 9, 10.

However difficult it may be to reconcile these rather conflicting records, it is certain that Sir Edmund Bacon left two daughters, for in the year 1360 his estates were divided between them.

*Partitio terrar. inter hered. Edm̄i Bacon: inter Margeriam filiam ejus, ux̄em Willimi, filij John de Molyns, et Matildam, alteram filiam, ux̄em Joh̄is fil. Joh. Bergherst, de terris in Hatfield Peverell et Witham in com. Essex; maner. de Gresham in com. Norf. et maner. de Oulton in com. Suff.*¹⁰

Sir William Molyns, who thus obtained the manor and advowson of Oulton, presented to the rectory in 1379. They soon after passed to a branch of the ancient family of Fastolf, from the Norfolk line of which sprung the hero of Agincourt. About the middle of the fifteenth century, Edmund Fastolf, son of Sir Hugh Fastolf, Knt., released to William Jermy, and Katharyne, the widow of John Fastolf, Esq., and his heirs, all his right in the manor of Oulton, called Houghton Hall, and in all other things pertaining to the said manor, in the towns of Oulton, Lowestoft, Gunton, Flixton, Blundiston, Carlton, Bekles, and Westhall.¹¹

In 1476, Thomas Fastolf, Esq., nephew and heir of the above Edmund Fastolf, released to John, Lord Howard, to Thomas Howard, Esq., William Jenney, Serjeant-at-Law, and others, all his right in the manor of Oulton, called Houghton Hall, which was formerly the property of John Fastolf, late of Oulton, Esq.¹²

In the nineteenth of Henry VII., James Hobart was lord and patron of Oulton; and in the twentieth of the following reign, Sir Walter Hubbert, or Hobart, son and heir of James Hobart, settled this estate, inter alia, on Henry, his son, who was lord in 1550. This family retained its interests here till the middle of the following century, when, in the seventh of Charles I., Anthony Hobart, Esq., conveyed them to Edmund Reeve, Esq., afterwards Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, to which high station he was advanced March 14, 1638, and died in 1647. His widow presented to the church in that year, and, dying in 1657, was succeeded in the family estates at Oulton by Christopher Reeve, Clk., nephew to the Justice, whose son Christopher, likewise in holy orders, held them till his death in 1702. In that year, this property was vested, by Act of Parliament, in trustees, who, in 1716, conveyed it to Gerard Van Heythuson, Esq. It was next held by Delme Van Heythuson, under settlement, whose executors, in 1772, sold it to Thomas Anguish, Esq. On the 1st and 2nd of Sept. 1789, Sir William Henry Ashurst, Knt., and John Hare, trustees and executors, under powers contained in the will of Thomas Anguish, Esq., dated 3rd Sept. 1784, conveyed to Susanna Blacknell, then of Normanston House, the manor or lordship of Oulton, and the capital mansion, or manor-house, called Oulton High House, &c., and certain lands in Oulton

¹⁰ *Brevia Regis*, an. 35 Ed. III. p. 2.

¹¹ Harl. MSS. 971.

¹² *Id.* p. 120.

and Lowestoft, containing about 32 acres, late Van Heythuson's; Oulton Broad, and fishings: also 14 acres and a cottage, and all wastes, court-leets, courts-baron, view of frank-pledge, and rights, royalties, and appurtenances, except the advowson, which, not being included in the parcels devised to the trustees, descended to Thomas Anguish, Esq. Susanna Blacknell held her first general court-baron in 1793.¹³ The manor now belongs to Colonel, or as he is called in a very recent abstract of title, General Nathaniel Wilmot Oliver, and Marianne his wife. They derive their title to the manor and estate under the limitations of the marriage settlement of the above-said Susanna Blacknell, spinster, with Sir Thomas Graves, Knight of the Bath and Rear-Admiral of the White Squadron, dated 19th and 20th of July, 1808; and by which Miss Blacknell had a power of appointment over the property, subject to the lives of herself and husband. And she, as Susanna, Lady Graves, wife of the said Sir Thomas, by her will, dated 28th December, 1813, appointed and devised this manor and estate to trustees, upon trust for sale: the produce, after payment of her debts, as to one moiety, to go to Robert Baxter, of Furnival's Inn, London, Esq., one of the trustees, his executors, &c., for his or their use; and as to the other moiety, to be invested for the benefit of Miss Marianne Baxter, daughter of the testatrix's late lamented friend, Dudley Baxter, of Atherstone, in Warwickshire, Esq., and after her decease upon such trusts, &c., as the said Marianne Baxter, by her will, should appoint.

Robert Baxter died about the end of 1824, or early in 1825. Miss Baxter is now Mrs. Oliver. By some family arrangements, the particulars of which I am not acquainted with, Mrs. Oliver has obtained the ownership of the whole property, but the surviving trustee of the legal estate having been abroad, and lately died there, no actual conveyance has yet been obtained, but is now in progress.¹⁴ The Colonel, or General and Mrs. Oliver reside at Derry, Roscarberry, Ireland.

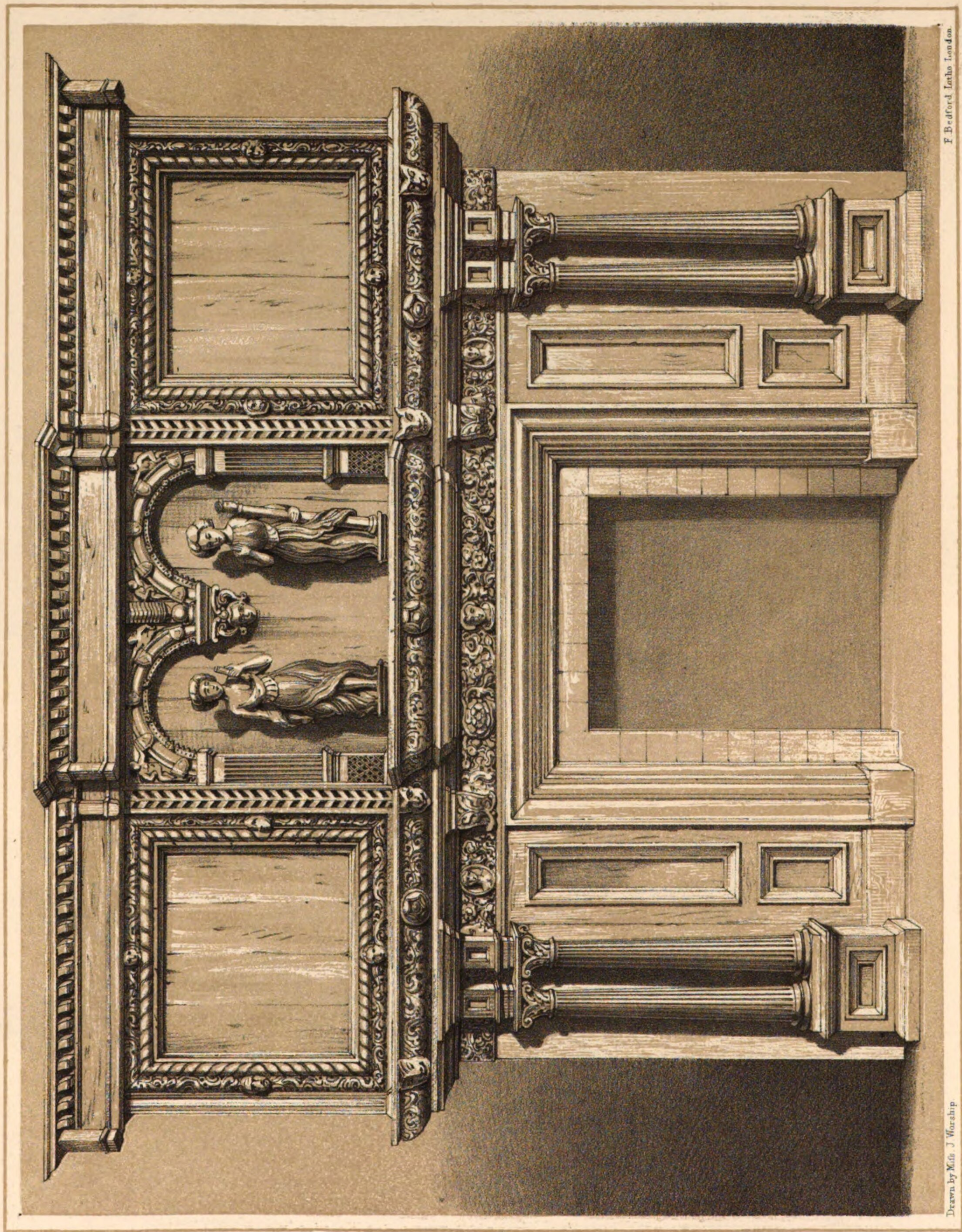
The manor of Oulton High House is a mesne manor, held of Mr. Peto's paramount manor by free tenure. The shield of Blacknell is of eight coats.

1. Per bend or and sab. an eagle displayed counterchanged; Blacknell.
2. Az. a chev. int. 3 mullets or.
3. Arg. 3 bars gules.
4. Arg. 3 chevronells gules.
5. Arg. on a cross engr. sab. 3 mullets or.
6. Gules, 3 fishes naiant.
7. Per pale indented, arg. and sab.
8. Per bend gules and az. a saltire quartered in the centre, between 4 crosslets counterchanged.

The manorial residence, called Oulton High House, stands near the north-east

¹³ MSS. R. Reeve, Esq.

¹⁴ Ex. inform. E. Norton, arm. Lowestoft.



Drawn by Miss J. Warship.

F Bedford, Litho London.

OULTON HIGH HOUSE. ANCIENT MANTEL-PIECE.

London, Published by the Author
Printed by Standish & Co

border of the parish, and from its style must have been built by the Hobarts in the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, or early in that of her successor. It has been much modernized, and perhaps disfigured, by the introduction of sashed windows; but it still bears an aspect of a good but somewhat decayed mansion. Its interior fittings partook of considerable expense, if we may judge by the labour and ornament bestowed on a mantel, or chimney-piece, which still remains.

Examinations, similar to those related at Blundeston and Ashby, were taken at Oulton, on the 6th of March, in the first and second of Philip and Mary, on the behalves of Sir Henry Jernegan, Knt., and Robert Jernegan, for certain variances between them, the town of Oulton, and Henry Hubbard, Esq., for the commons of the same town; and the fishings; by which it appears that the latter were always private property. The depositions of Thomas Age, of Borough St. Margaret, and of Edmund Dowsinge, citizen of Norwich, recorded the 7th of March, in the fifth of Edward VI., prove the private property of the water called Oulton Fen; and that in Sir James Hubbard's time, "at a day in the somer all fishermen were warned off from fishing in the said river." James Wynter, of Flixton, who appears to have been no true "brother of the angle," deposed "that he himself hath used to ketch with a swyll or maunde, and so taken fish with treading by the water's side." It is apparent, also, from these depositions, that Mutford bridge was then built, "which bridge one Katharine Mayde did make."

In 1801, an Act was obtained for the dividing and enclosing the common heaths, marshes, fen-grounds, dooles, and waste lands, within the several parishes of Carlton Colville, Oulton, and Kirkley; when the different commons in Oulton were found to contain 380 acres, 35 perches, which were thus allotted.

Lands allotted to the lady of the manor for her rights to the soil, being	A.	R.	P.
$\frac{1}{16}$ in value of the whole	23	3	3
To the rector for his right of common	5	0	14
To the trustees of the poor under the Act	48	1	5
To the surveyors for gravel and sand-pits	2	1	28
Three encroachments sold	0	2	15
Allotted to the other proprietors for their rights of common, and for private roads	297	2	28
	377	3	13
Old enclosed land in the parish for which proprietors were entitled to rights of common	1118	0	15
Old enclosed land for which the proprietors were not entitled to rights of common	363	1	23
	1481	1	38

	A.	R.	P.
Oulton Broad	90	0	0
New and old public roads	34	0	23
River Waveney and dyke in the parish	10	2	39

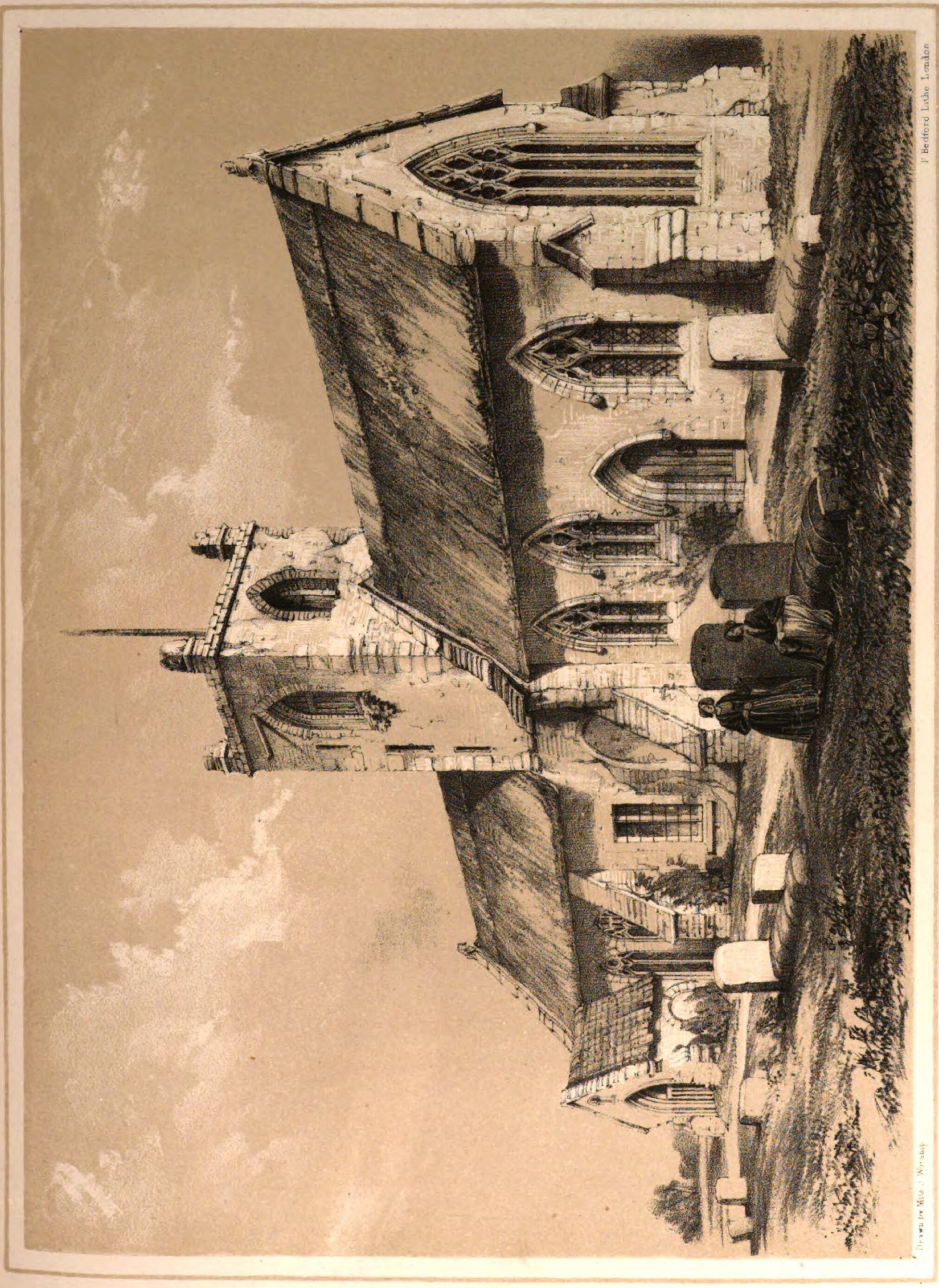
There were forty scythe-rights upon Reed Fen, and 217 goings, or number of beasts, belonging to different proprietors, which they were entitled by custom to depasture on Fresh Marsh. The old enclosed land belonging to the rector, before the exchanges which were made by the commissioners, was 35 acres, 1 rood, 11 perches.¹⁵

According to the admeasurement of the parish under the Commutation Act, Oulton contains 1970 acres, 3 roods, 32 perches, of which 49 acres are glebe. The commutation, in lieu of tithes, amounts to £ 462, and the population in 1841 was 534, exclusive of the inmates of the Union House, erected in this parish for the Hundred.

THE CHURCH

at Oulton comprised in its original plan a nave and chancel only, with a low square tower rising over its centre. Of this edifice the lower portion of the tower and the nave alone remain, but their Norman ornaments and solid proportions plainly indicate the period of their construction. The ancient chancel, which was probably small and circular, gave place to the present elegant structure about the time of our first Edward's reign, when the transepts were also added, and the spire soon after raised. The latter appendage, falling into decay, was removed many years ago, and the south transept has long been in ruins: so that at the present day this edifice consists of a nave and chancel with the central tower, and a north transept only. The only portion of the fabric possessing architectural grace is the existing chancel, in which the simple elegance and just proportions, which marked the early period of the Decorated style, are conspicuous throughout, despite the presence of a flat unmeaning ceiling, and the closed and darkened eastern window. How imposing must this chancel have been in former days, when its pointed oaken roof displayed the rich heraldic bearings of the Fastolfs and the Bacons, which occupied each boss and "coin of vantage," while the deep-tinted glass, sparkling with the like achievements, poured floods of light upon its sculptured fittings, in stains of varied mellow lustre! Portions of this rich but fragile ornament graced the tracery of the chancel windows at no distant period, for they lately contained the arms of Bacon, with gules, a boar passant or, and the crest of that ancient family. Besides the high altar of the church, dedicated to St. Michael, there were the chapel of

¹⁵ MSS. R. Reeve, arm.



OULTON CHURCH, FROM THE S. E.

London. Published by the Author.

Printed by Sandridge & Co.



Height, 6^{ft} 0¹/₄^m

F. Bedford Linfo London

Printed by Standidge & Co

BRASS IN OULTON CHURCH.

London, Published by the Author.

the Holy Trinity, and the guilds of St. John Baptist and St. Mary. The north transept, which was probably raised by the Bacons, seems to have continued with the lords of the manor as their peculiar chantry, and was considered private property not many years since, when it belonged to Mr. Hunt, a gentleman who held considerable estates in this parish. The chapel of the Holy Trinity was probably situated in the south transept, to which portion of the building seems to have been attached a west aisle; the arch of which, opening into the nave, is visible, though closed with masonry. This chapel possessed a guild; for Jeffry Caley, by his will, dated in 1504, gave to the fraternity of the blessed Trinity, after the death of Margaret his wife, the tenement in Oulton in which he lived, with six acres of land for evermore, to keep his obit.¹⁶

Though much despoiled of its rich and ancient garniture, Oulton Church contains some sepulchral brasses of more than common interest. In the centre of the chancel floor lies the full-sized effigy of an ecclesiastic, habited in the gorgeous sacerdotal vestments of the Romish Church. The inscription belonging to this very ancient and handsome monument is lost, but Le Neve tells us the figure "was for Sire Adam Bacon, presbyter," which seems confirmed by the fact, that the arms of Bacon, blazoned like those on the shield borne by the Knight of Gorleston, were attached to this effigy at no very distant period, and were seen by the writer, lying loose in the church, about five or six-and-twenty years since. Mr. Ives mentions a second shield which belonged to this sepulchral memorial, the bearings of which were a cross engrailed, and on a chief, two mullets of six points, pierced; and adds that there were preserved in the church chest two small pieces of brass, on which these letters were cut, I. H. C. and L. U. Y.—P. The writer considers this skilfully executed figure to be the oldest sepulchral brass, placed to an ecclesiastic, now remaining in England; and in spirited design and magnitude, as unsurpassed by any. The value of these sepulchral memorials, as developing the gradually progressive changes wrought by fashion in the costume and decorations of our ancestors, is incalculably great; and it is a subject of congratulation to every archæologist, that their wanton spoliation, or selfish abstraction, is no longer viewed with indifference.

Near the chancel arch lies a floor-stone inlaid with a plate of brass, on which is inscribed the following legend.

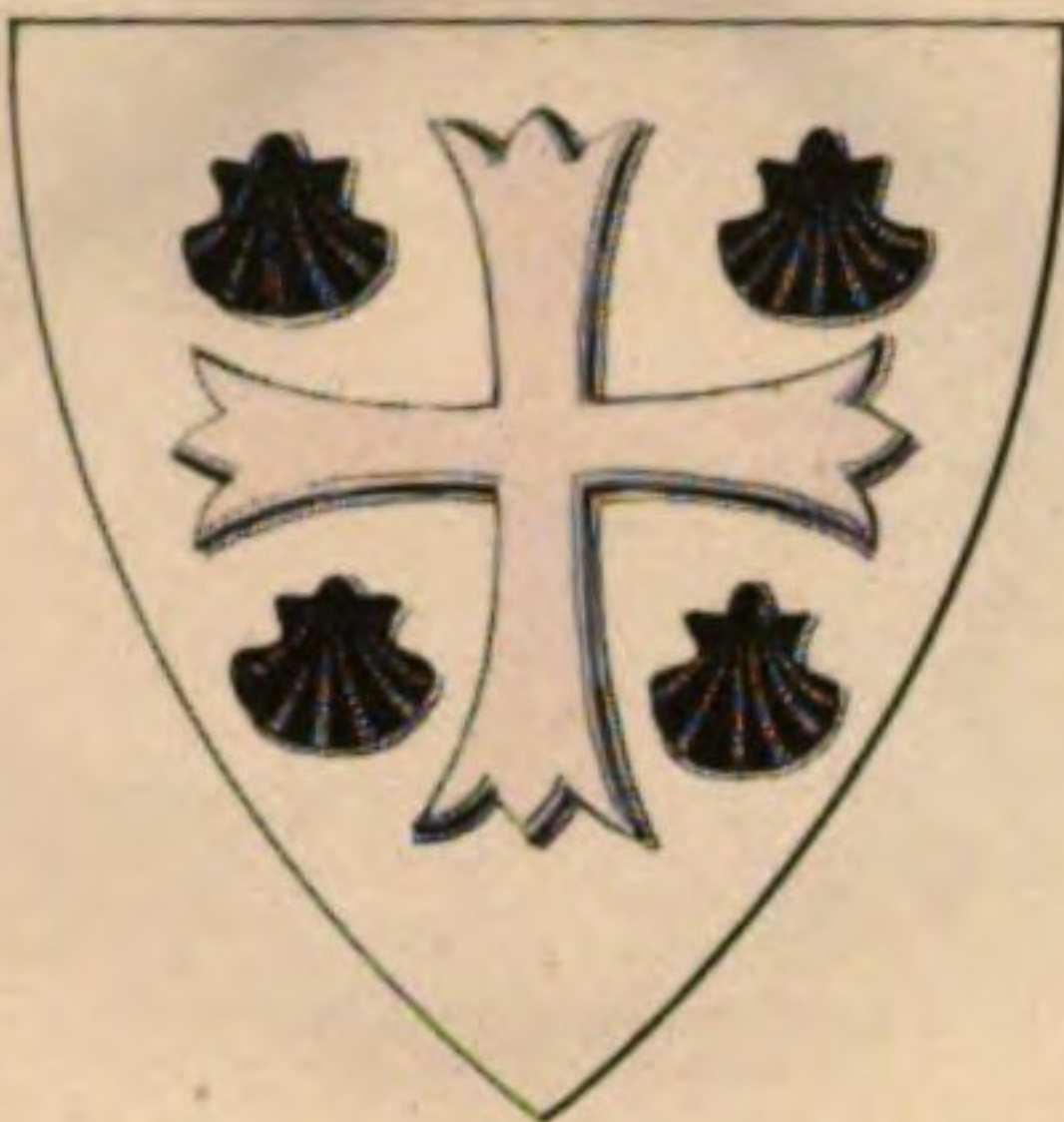
*Orate p̄ aīa Willī Bedīngfeld nup
Rectoris istī ecclīe qui obiit p̄mo die
Septēbr̄ a^o dñi m^o b^c iij cū aīe ppiciet de.*

¹⁶ MSS. Aldis.

This William Bedingfeld held the rectory of Oulton for the long period of fifty years, having been instituted to the preferment in 1453. Close by the chancel door lie the effigies of John Fastolf, Esq., and Katherine his wife. The male figure, completely sheathed in armour with the exception of his helmet, stands in a devotional attitude by the side of his lady, whose fantastic head-dress is in strict accordance with the fashion which marks the latter half of the fifteenth century. John Fastolf, already mentioned as lord of the manor of Oulton, by his will, dated in 1444, desires his body to be buried in the church of St. Michael of Oulton. The monument and inscription to his memory were not placed, however, till 1479, or the following year, as we learn from the will of his widow, dated on the 20th of November, 1478, and proved on the same day of July, 1479, whereby she leaves her body to be buried in the chancel of the parish church of St. Michael the Archangel, at Oulton, by the grave of John Fastolf, her late husband. "And I will that the stone which now lies over the burial-place of the said John Fastolf be removed, and placed over the grave of Thomas Sampson, my late son; and another stone, to the value of seven or eight marks, be provided by my executors, inlaid with the arms of John Sampson, and the aforesaid John Fastolf, my late husbands; and with the arms of Roger Welysham, my father, and with the arms of Bedingfeld; and that the said stone shall lay over the sepulchre of the said John Fastolf, and my own grave. Also I will that one complete vestment with a cope to the value of twenty marks be provided and purchased by my executors in honour of God, to serve in the church of Oulton aforesaid. Also, I leave to the guild of St. John Baptist, in Oulton aforesaid, one quarter of barley: also, I leave to the guild of the Holy Trinity, in the same village of Oulton, half a quarter of wheat and half a quarter of barley. Also, I leave towards the reparation of the bell-tower of Oulton aforesaid vi. viij^d." It is rather singular that in the above will no provision is made for the brass effigies which are inlaid in the stone, covering the remains of the testatrix and her husband; while the shields of arms are especially ordered to be prepared. Of these four escutcheons, the shield of Bedingfeld occupies its matrix, but the others have long disappeared. As the third escutcheon was directed to be charged with the arms of Roger Welysham, the lady's father, it is a reasonable conjecture that her mother was a Bedingfeld; though the pedigrees of that ancient family do not record such an alliance. In 1453, she presented William Bedingfeld to the rectory of Oulton. The family of Fastolf was a very extensive one, and the genealogies of the different branches appear very confused, and in many cases contradictory. If their pedigrees are to be depended upon, the Suffolk branch, established at Ipswich, and afterwards at Pettaugh, descended from Nicholas Fastolf, third son of John Fastolf, of Caistor, in Norfolk. The Fastolfs of Nacton are not traceable higher than to Sir Hugh Fastolf, Knt., who was high sheriff for Suffolk and Norfolk in 1390. With respect to the John Fastolf



Fastolf.



Sampson.

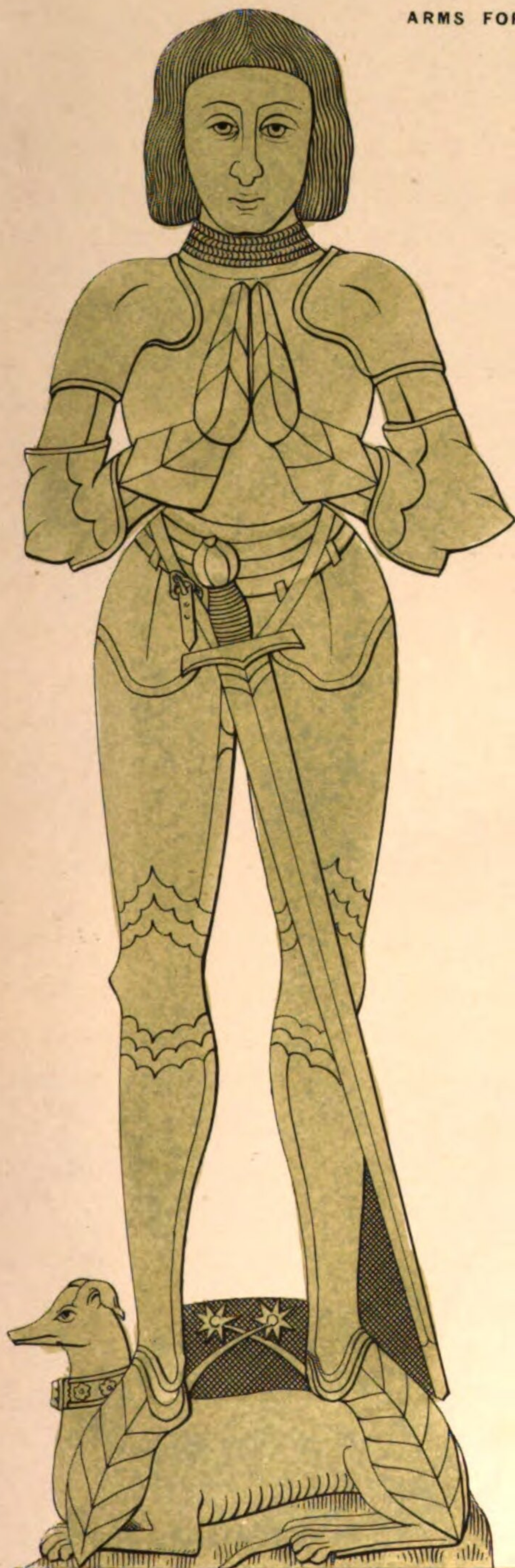


Welysham.



Bedingfeld.

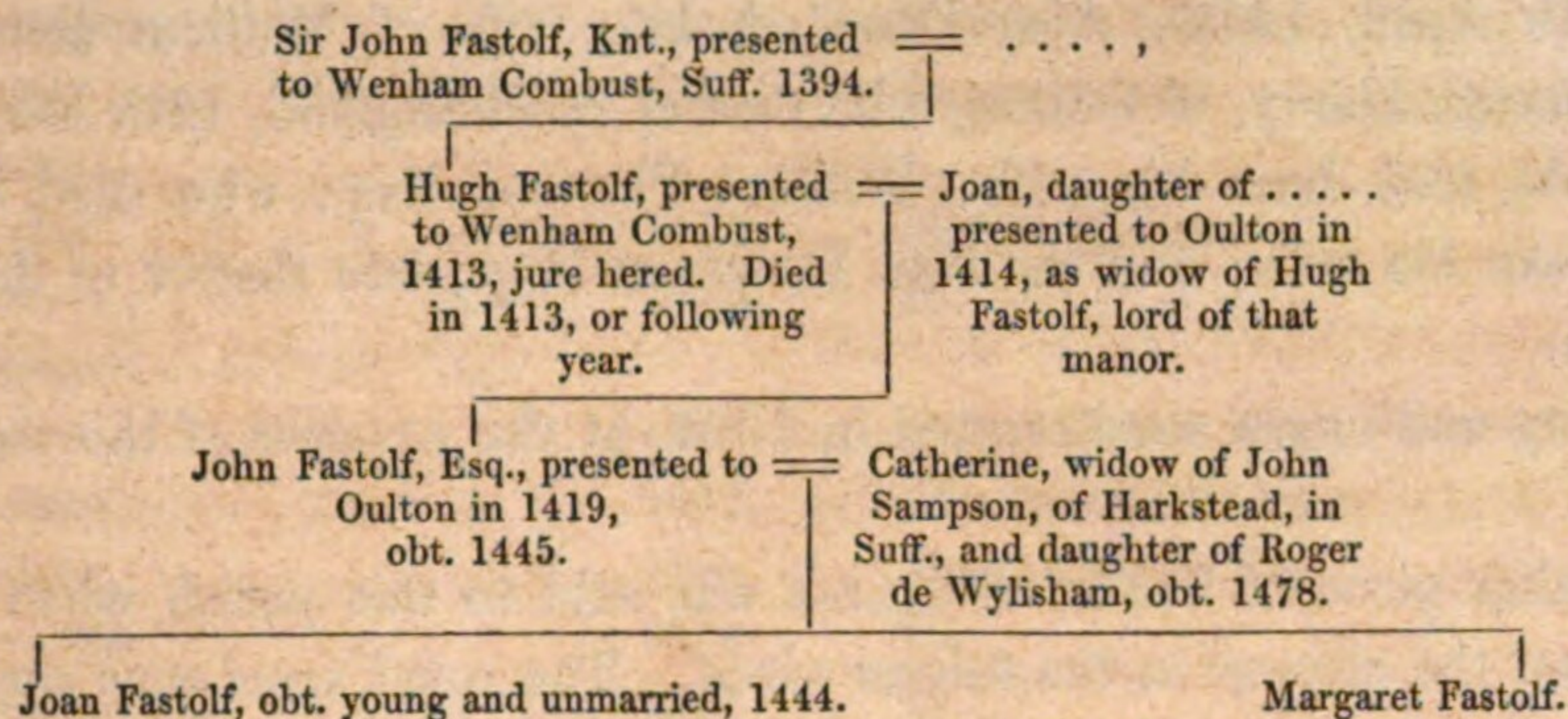
ARMS FORMERLY ATTACHED TO THE TOMB.



He iacet Johes fastolff Armiger qui obiit ultio die Januarii A° dñi M° CCC° xlv° Et Katherine
uxor sua que obiit vi die mensis Januarii A° dñi M° CCC° lxxviii° q̄ aīabz p̄ciat de amē

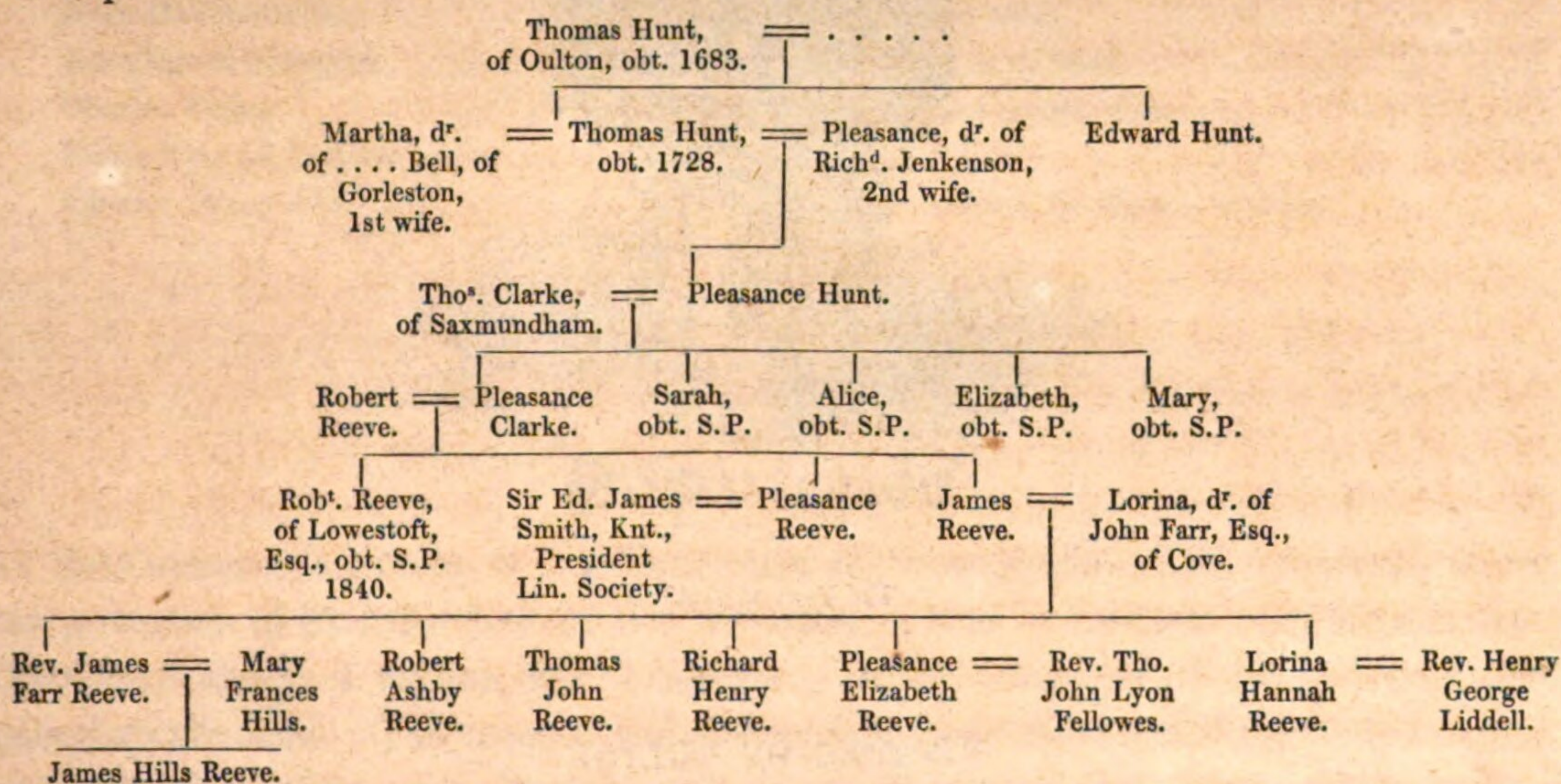
Height 2^{ft} 8ⁱⁿ

buried at Oulton, the following particulars of his pedigree are extracted from the collections of Mr. Norris, now in the possession of the Frere family.¹⁷



Thomas Hunt, one of the Deputy-Lieutenants for the county of Suffolk, died May 18th, 1808, aged 74.

The family of this gentleman were considerable landowners in Oulton, as early as the sixteenth century, and are said to have been at that time proprietors of the north transept.



Reeve bears az., a chev. int. 3 pairs of wings conjoined and elevated or.

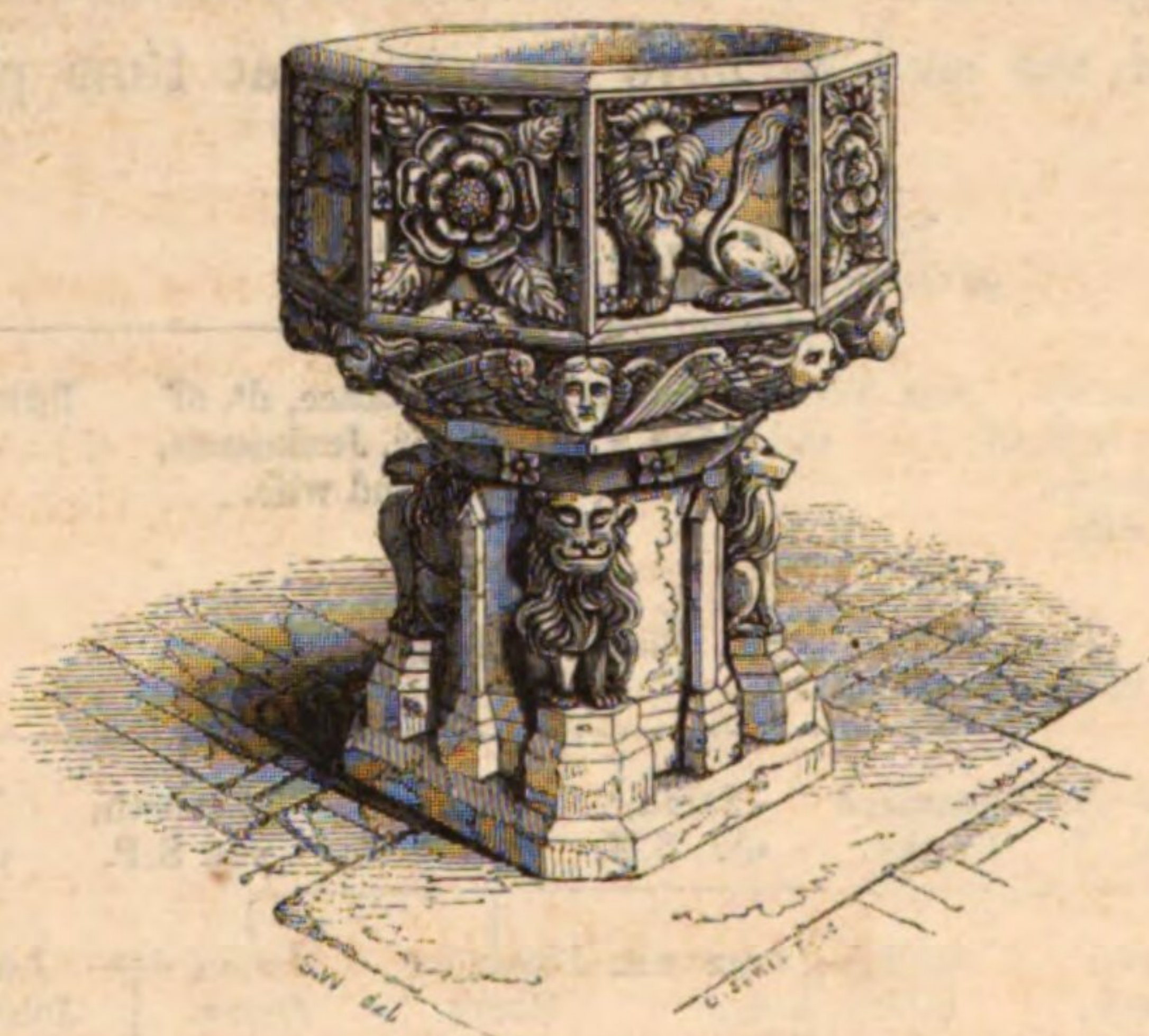
Elizabeth Jenkenson, died 4th October, 1783, aged 83. Rev. Charles Fisher, late Rector of this parish, died January 23rd, 1836, aged 50. Edward Acton Acton, of Gatacre Park, in the county of Salop, died April 5th, 1822, aged 53. Henry Spurgeon Acton, his infant son, died March 8th, 1814. Elizabeth Van Heythuson, daughter

¹⁷ MSS. D. E. Davy, Esq.

of Gerard Van Heythuson, died 20th May, 1735, aged 17. Sarah, his wife, died January 20th, 1740. There were also formerly monuments to John Bomsted, Gent., who died 7th April, 1479; Ales Bomsted, late wife of William Bomsted; Simon Sampson; George Harvy, of Oulton, who died at Shaddingfield, 12th December, 1595; William Wade, and Joan his wife; William Playters, Esq., who died 3rd February, 1516, and Joan his wife; and the Rev. Benjamin Page, late Rector of this parish, who died in 1758.

The gallery and organ were erected in 1836, at the expense of the rector and land-owners.

The old altar-piece of Lowestoft church was sold to this parish when the Rev. Mr. Arrow repaired the chancel at the former place. The royal arms now placed in Oulton were brought from the church of St. George, Hanover Square, London. The registers of Oulton commence in 1723.



The Font at Oulton.

RECTORS OF OULTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Sequest. Commiss., Ade de Bacoun	1301	Dominus John Bacoun.
Richard de Houton . . .	1318	Adam Bacon.
Johes. de Bradwell . . .	1329	Id.
Adam de Pulham . . .	1361	The King, guardian of Edmund Bacon, Knt.
Richard de Sekyndon . . .	1379	William de Molyns, Knt.
Richard Green . . .	1395	Miles de Stapelton, Knt., and others.
Robert Rydwar . . .	1396	Id.
Adam Thede . . .	1414	Joan Fastolf, and others.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John Lambden	1419	John Fastolf, Esq.
William Lyster	1427	Id.
William Bedingfeld	1453	Katharine Fastolf.
John Hunton	1503	James Hobart.
William Briton		
Nicholas Fuller	1518	Walter Hobart.
William ———	1525	Id.
William Stevens		
Francis Yaxley	1558	Henry Hobart, Esq.
Edward Garrard	1562	The Bishop, by lapse.
Thomas Lupton	1569	James Hobart, Esq.
Nicholas Lyncoln	1574	Id.
John Maplesden	1582	Id.
William Titley	1613	Robert Redmayn, LL.D., p. h. v.
Edward Cory	1647	Mary, relict of Sir Edmund Reeve.
Christopher Reeve	1668	Maria Reeve.
Christopher Reeve	1701	The Bishop, by lapse.
John Dubordien	1702	Dor. Reeve, widow.
Benjamin Page	1720	Gerard Van Heythuson, Esq.
John Hebblethwaite	1758	John Marston.
John Grove Spurgeon	1774	Executors of same.
Charles Fisher	1829	George Anguish, Clk.
Edwin Proctor Denniss	1836	Id.
Charles Henry Cox	1845	Lord Sidney Godolphin Osborne.

Estimatur ad xxij marc.

Somerleyton.

IN the Conqueror's Survey is this description of Somerleyton. Ulf, a free-man under the protection of Earl Gurth, held two carucates of land in Sumerledetun for a manor: there were always 4 villeins, and 4 bordars. In the Confessor's time, and now, two ploughs were kept. The tenants had always half a carucate; wood for 15 swine, and one acre of meadow; two draught horses, six swine, and 80 sheep; always valued at twenty shillings.

Wihtred, a free-man and a priest, held 40 acres for a manor. In Saxon times there was on this estate one bordar, now 2: one plough was always kept; there was wood for 5 swine, and the proprietor had 1 draught horse, 4 cows, 5 swine, and 33 sheep: valued at 5 shillings. There was also a church endowed with 20 acres of glebe, valued at 3 shillings. Ninety acres of land in this parish belonged to Gorleston; and 20 free-men of that place, held 90 acres here according to the customs pertaining to the

manor. The whole village was seized into the hands of the King, who retained it under the stewardship of Roger Bigod.¹ It was soon after held as one manor by Sir Peter Fitz-Osbert, whose son, Sir Roger, was lord in the reign of Henry III. This knight was summoned to Parliament as Baron Fitz-Osbert in the twenty-second of Edward I., and died without issue in 1305, or the following year.² The manor of Somerleyton then devolved on Isabella, his sister, wife of Sir Walter Jernegan, of Horham Jernegan, in Suffolk, and relict of Sir Henry de Walpole, ancestor to the Earls of Orford. She also inherited the manor of Uggeshall in Suffolk, and divers estates in Norfolk. Her sister and coheiress, Alice, married Sir John Noyoun, Knt., whose son, Sir John, dying without issue, her division of the Fitz-Osbert estates reverted to the Jernegans.³ Sir Peter Jernegan, son of Sir Walter and Isabella Fitz-Osbert, succeeded his mother in the manor of Somerleyton, and died about the year 1350, or soon after. From this period to the reign of James I., Somerleyton continued the chief residence of the Jernegan family, when the Suffolk, or elder branch, became merged in female heirs; John Jernegan, of Somerleyton, Esq., leaving, by Catharine, his wife, daughter of George Brook, Lord Cobham, four daughters, viz.: Elizabeth, Catharine, Frances, and Margaret. Frances, the third daughter, married first, Thomas Bedingfeld, Esq., of Oxburgh, by whom she had two sons; and secondly, Henry Jerningham, of Cossey, in Norfolk, her cousin, who sold Somerleyton to John Wentworth, Esq. He died in 1619, and left by Elizabeth Southwell, his wife, Sir John Wentworth, who resided here during the civil wars. Sir John married Anne Soame, but died without issue in 1651. His widow retained possession of the manor till her death; when John Garneys, Esq., son of Elizabeth Wentworth, Sir John's eldest sister,⁴ by Charles Garneys, Esq., her husband, succeeded to this lordship. Their son, Thomas Garneys, Esq., conveyed it, in 1672, to Admiral Sir Thomas Allin, Knt. and Bart., who died in 1686. He left two children; Sir Thomas Allin, Bart., who succeeded him, but died without issue; and Alice Allin, who, marrying Edmund Anguish, Esq., of Moulton, in Norfolk, carried Somerleyton, and the adjoining estates, into that family; their *eldest* son, Richard Anguish, taking the name and arms of Allin, under the provisions of his uncle's will. Sir Richard Allin, alias Anguish, was advanced to the rank of a Baronet, and married in 1699, Frances,⁵ daughter of Henry Ashurst. He died about the year 1725, leaving two sons; Sir Thomas Allin, Bart., who succeeded him, but died unmar-

¹ Domesday, Terra Regis.

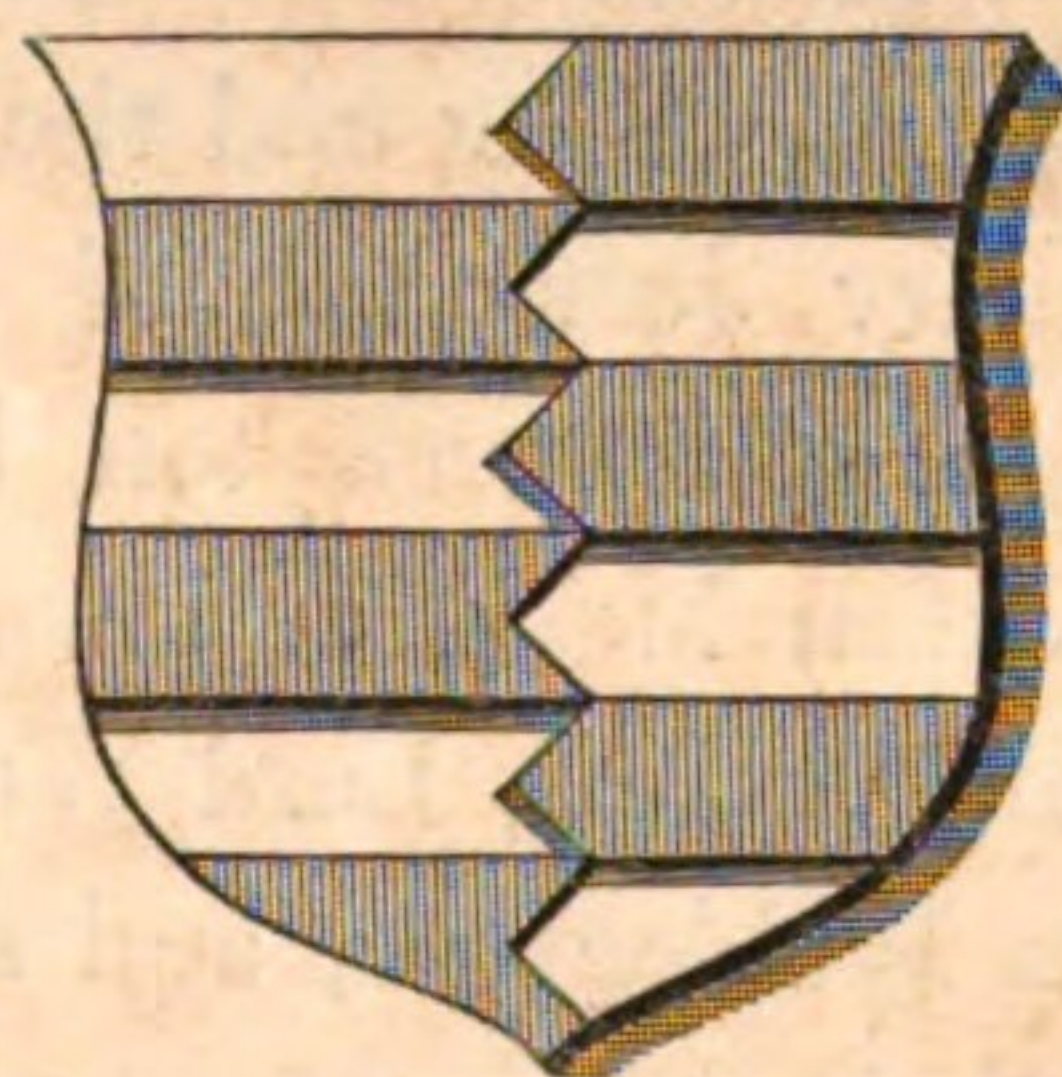
² Inq. p. mort. 34 Ed. I.

³ Blomefield.

⁴ In the court-books of Lound, Elizabeth Garneys is called the *only* sister of Sir John Wentworth, which is not strictly correct. She was the only surviving sister, for it appears from the pedigree, or map and history of Norfolk, that he had two other sisters. MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁵ Le Neve calls her Diana Ashurst.

ried; and Ashurst Allin, who, on his brother's death, inherited his baronetcy and estates. Sir Ashurst married Thomasin Norris, and dying in 1770, devised his property to his only son, Sir Thomas Allin, who died in 1794, a bachelor; in whose person this line of the family and the baronetcy became extinct. The manor of Somerleyton, however, and the residue of the estates, passed to his heir-at-law, Thomas Anguish, Esq., who was descended from Edmund Anguish, the *second* son of Edmund Anguish, Esq., of Moulton, aforesaid, who married Alice, daughter of the first Sir Thomas Allin. Mr. Anguish died unmarried in 1810, and was succeeded in all his manors by the Rev. George Anguish, Clerk, M. A., and Prebendary of Norwich Cathedral. This gentleman was born February 7th, 1764, and dying a bachelor July 5, 1843, the family of Anguish became extinct. The manor and advowson of Somerleyton then fell by heirship to his nephew, Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne, son of his Grace the Duke of Leeds, by Catharine, his second wife, sister to the Rev. George Anguish, the previous possessor. In August, 1844, these, with several other lordships and estates, were conveyed, as already shown, to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., of the city of London, who is the present possessor.



Peto.

The family of Anguish, late lords of Somerleyton, are said to have migrated from the shire of Angus, in Scotland, whence they assumed their surname. Their crest, however, does not confirm this, being an anguis, or snake, coiled in the grass. The shield is a good old bearing: gules, a cinquefoil, pierced, argent. Blomefield says "they settled at Moulton, in Norfolk, where they remained three centuries, and where, in 1609, Edward Anguish held the manor of the Earl of Northampton, as parcel of the manor of Forncet."

The family of Jernegan, which for nearly three centuries flourished as lords of Somerleyton, ranks high among the most ancient in England. Weever tells us that "the name hath been of exemplarie note before the Conquest," and adds the following account as extracted out of the pedigree of the family, anno 1030. "Canute, King of Denmark and of England, after his return from Rome, brought with him diverse captains and souldiers from Denmarke; whereof the greater part were christened here

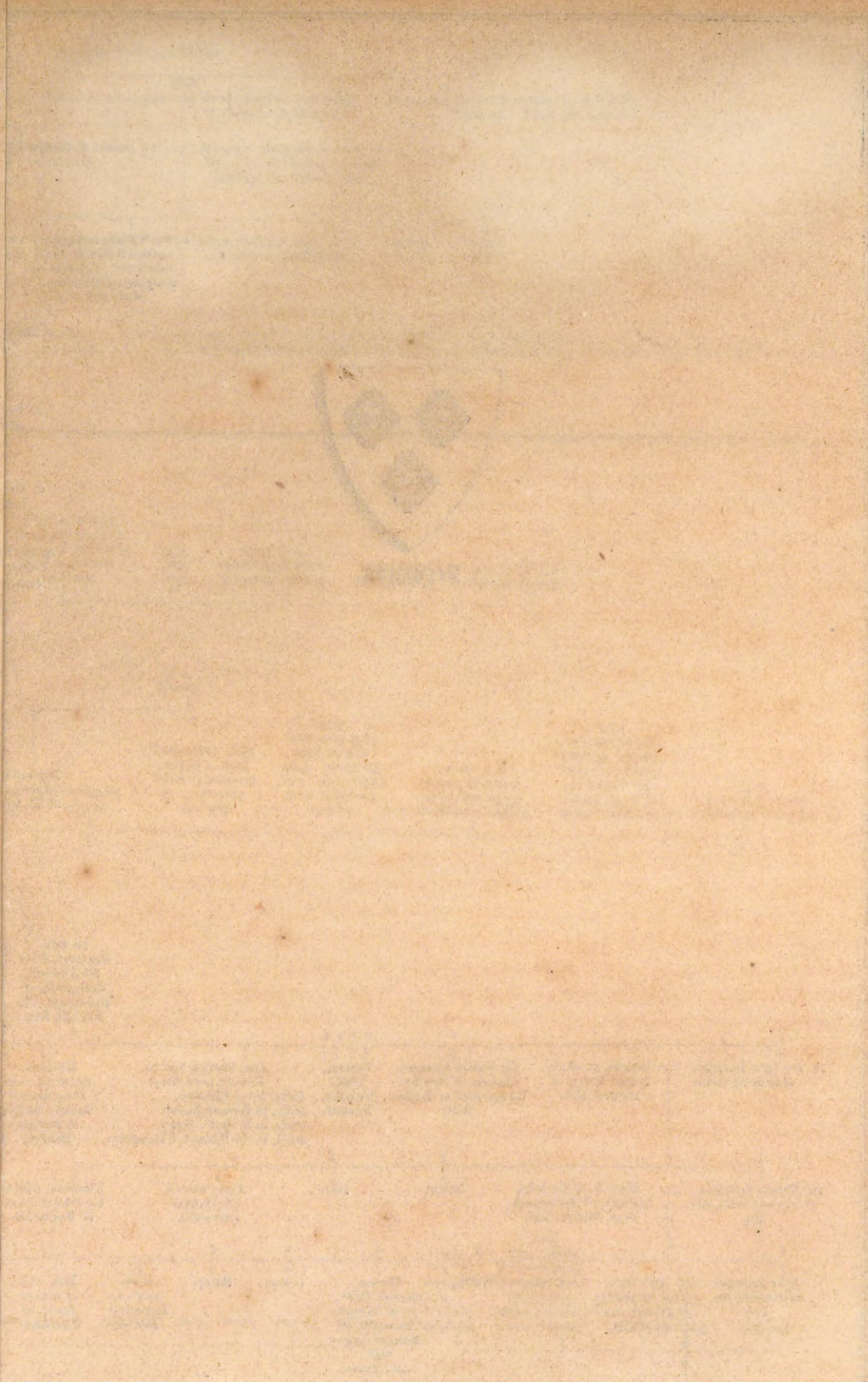
in England, and began to settle themselves here; of whom Jernegan, or Jerningham, and Jenihingo, now Jennings, were of most esteem with Canute, who gave unto the sayde Jerningham certaine royalties; and at a parliament held at Oxford, the sayde King Canute did give unto the sayde Jerningham certaine manors in Norfolke; and to Jennings certaine manors, lying upon the sea side, neere Harwich in Suffolke, in regard of their former services done to his father, Swenus, King of Denmark."⁶ "That the above note," says Blomefield,⁷ "may be in the pedigree of the family, we cannot contradict, nor yet the truth of it; though there are many things which seem to invalidate it." The descent, however, of this family can be traced satisfactorily from a period little posterior to the Norman Conquest to Sir George Jerningham, Bart., of Cossey, in a direct male line; who also unites in his own person the ancient blood of the Staffords, to whose Barony he was admitted in 1825. In the claim of Sir George to this ancient inheritance, his petition included a narrative of heirship, without any chasm in the links, for more than seven centuries; namely, from Robert de Stafford, *one of the great tenants in capite named in Domesday Book*, to his lineal descendant the petitioner. This long genealogical descent was drawn up by Sir Thomas Plomer and Francis Hargrave, Esq.; and although the early part was not necessary to be proved, yet it was thought desirable to introduce, in the cases laid before the King and the House of Lords, a descent from the *Domesday* ancestor.⁸ Sir Henry Jernegan, of Huntingfield and Wingfield, in Suffolk, son of Sir Edward Jernegan, of Somerleyton, by Mary, his second wife, was the zealous and faithful partisan of Queen Mary, and was one of the first, in conjunction with the Earls of Sussex, Bath, and Oxford, Lord Wentworth, Sir Thomas Cornwallis, Sir Henry Bedingfeld, Sir William Waldegrave, and several others of the Norfolk and Suffolk gentry, who came forward in her support, and proclaimed her in Norwich, July 12th, 1553. On her Majesty's accession, Sir Henry Jernegan was made Privy Counsellor, Vice-Chamberlain, Captain of her Guard, and Lord Lieutenant of the county of Kent. From the favour of his sovereign he obtained, by letters patent, several valuable estates and manors in Suffolk and Norfolk, and especially the manor of Cossey. As the founder of that branch, he altered the ancient spelling of his family name to Jerningham, which his descendants have ever retained.

The annexed pedigree of this ancient family, which is verified by the best evidence, carries their descent very nearly to the remotest period of our annals. There are few English families who pretend to higher antiquity than the Norman invasion, and it is probable that still fewer can authenticate their pretensions. An analysis of the printed peerage will prove that not more than eighty of our nobility can trace their descent to a period prior to the year 1100.

⁶ 'Funeral Monuments.'

⁷ Cossey.

⁸ Grimaldi's 'Origines Genealogicæ,' p. 6.





Drawn by Alfred Suckling. F. Bedford Litho. London.

SOMERLEYTON HALL.

London, Published by the Author.
Printed by Sandridge & Co.

SOMERLEYTON HALL

stands in the centre of a park of moderate extent: the ground is flat, and commands neither varied nor extensive views, but is well planted, and possesses a stately avenue of lime-trees, which in summer are surpassingly beautiful. The house is said to have been built by Sir John Jernegan, the last resident of that family; but I have met with no documents to confirm this. It is not improbable, however, that he erected this mansion, as some of its chimneys and details seem to belong to an earlier era than the western, or principal front. If such be the case, the older work must have been masked by a subsequent owner, as the façade bears the distinctive character of a style of domestic architecture introduced into this country after the Restoration; the novelty of which caused it to be very frequently employed to the destruction of many of our most beautiful Tudor mansions. The house is built of red brick throughout, but its great extent of front is relieved with pilasters, quoins, and window-dressings of stone. It may justly claim a place amongst the finest specimens of brick mansions which adorn our country, and which are nowhere to be met with in greater profusion, nor in statelier forms, than in Norfolk and Suffolk. Old Fuller has ranked Somerleyton (in his 'Worthies of England'⁹) "amongst the many fair houses of the gentry in this county." "Sommerley Hall, nigh Yarmouth, belonging to the Lady Wentworth; well answering the name thereof: for here Sommer is to be seen in the depth of Winter, in the pleasant walks beset on both sides with fir trees, green all the year long; besides other curiosities."

Fuller's visit must have been made between the years 1651 and 1660, and it is evident from his remarks on the fir-trees, that though introduced into England about 1548, they had not yet obtained a very general cultivation. The entrance hall at Somerleyton, as in all ancient houses, is a spacious apartment, rising to the height of the external pilasters. It is lined throughout with wainscot of oak panel, and a handsome gallery, projecting midway from its walls, gives access to the numerous chambers of the mansion. The windows contain some painted glass, representing the figures of Sir Peter Fitz-Osbert, and Lady Isabella, his daughter; besides the arms and cognizances of the successive lords of Somerleyton. These devices are small, and faintly tinted, being early specimens of the reviving school of that branch of art. In the drawing-room, which is also wainscoted with oak said to have been grown in the park, are some fine examples of Gibbon's skill in carving. A spacious but low apartment, called the North Parlour, is now converted into a billiard-room; the table in which is framed out of portions of the wreck of the ill-fated *Royal George*. The

⁹ Vol. ii. p. 325.

chambers contain some old tapestry, which has evidently seen its brightest days. Very extensive alterations and repairs are now in active progress, under the direction of Mr. Peto, which promise to preserve the ancient character of the place.

The period of the civil wars was more disastrous to our old castles and mansions than even the destroying hand of time. When occupied by partisans of the Crown, the former were dismantled or burnt down, while the latter were pillaged, mutilated, or destroyed at the caprice of the soldiery, if occupied by owners distasteful to the governing powers. Sir John Wentworth, who resided at Somerleyton Hall during this eventful period, has left a curious book in manuscript, containing transcripts of warrants and rates, and other business connected with Somerleyton, commencing in January, 1640. The knight, as a partisan of the royal cause, appears to have fallen under suspicion; for in 1642, his house was occupied by the parliamentary soldiers, who committed great excess, and ended by plundering the mansion.

Upon the 14 day of March, 1642, being Tuesday, Collonell Cromwell's troope, and Captain Fountayne with his troope, and divers others, to the number of 140, came to Somerley Hall in the morning, and there they quartered that night, and a great part of them all Wednesday and Thursday till afternoon.

	£.	s.	d.
Valuing the quartering of 100 men—because some of them went away in the morning—for two days, as above-said, at 8 <i>d.</i> the man, comes to	3	6	8
Item, their horses eat in that time—as by good proof is made manifest—35 comb of oats: the price of them 5 <i>s.</i> the comb, comes to	8	15	0
Item, their horses eat and stroyed off the chamber, and out of the barne, at least 4 comb of wheate, besides rye: the price of such wheat then, at least 16 <i>s.</i> the comb, comes to	3	4	0
Item, their horses eat and stroyed at least 3 loads of grey peas in the straw, all which were very well worth	4	0	0
Item, they shot out of the sacks, and gave to their horses, 9 bushells of barley: then being 2 <i>s.</i> the bushell, comes to	0	18	0
Summe of this free quarter	£20	3	8
Besides at least five loades of good hard-land hay eaten and stroyed, worth £5 at least.			

For goods, horses, and arms seized or taken, thus we informe and accompte:

The 15th day of March, 1642, Collonell Cromwell's quarter-master tooke away from Somerleyton Hall, the house of Sir John Wentworth, Knt., six muskets, worth 20*s.* the musket, which comes to £6; and their bandeliers, and two rests, valued at 6*s.* 8*d.*; and one fowling-piece well worth 22*s.*; and 12 head-pieces, valued at 9*s.* the piece, comes to £5. 8*s.*

So the total of these armes comes to £12. 16*s.* 8*d.*

More at the same time from the same place was taken, but by whom we know not; in gold, £160.¹⁰

¹⁰ Wentworth MSS.

In 1648, Somerleyton Hall was again occupied by the parliamentarians, for in that year the bailiffs of Yarmouth received a letter from the Commissary-General, Ireton, the son-in-law of Cromwell, informing them of something he had to communicate to the town, and desiring a conference at Sir John Wentworth's house, at Somerleyton; which being complied with, Ireton there delivered to them the "Lord General's peremptory command either to ungarrison their town, or to demolish their walls and fortifications."¹¹

On the 5th of May, 1642, when the Parliament prepared a declaration concerning the militia of the kingdom, his Majesty in his reply, charged and commanded all his subjects, upon their allegiance, not to muster, levy, or array, any of the trained bands of the country. The Parliament, however, on the 10th of the same month caused the trained bands of London to muster in Finsbury Fields, and placed them under officers in whom they could confide; and sent their directions to the adjacent counties to do the same.¹² The consequent transactions, connected with Somerleyton, and its neighbourhood, are detailed in the Wentworth manuscripts.

On the 31st of October, 1642, an order was given for the trained soldiers of the Half Hundred to appear before the Deputy-Lieutenants of the county, with their "compleat armes, at Bulchampe Heath near Blithborough, upon Tuesday next, being the 3 of November, by 9 o'clock in the forenoon."

In 1643, when the whole nation was in arms, warrants were issued by the Parliament for collecting assessments for the maintenance of the army. Norfolk and Suffolk were each assessed at the same sum, and amongst Sir John Wentworth's papers are several documents connected with the levying this impost. In April of this year was issued the first.

To the Constables of Somerley, give these.

Whereas I have received warrant from Sir Butts Bacon, Bart., and Sir John Wentworth, Knt., comms amongst others for the assessing of the weekly payment of £1250, charged upon this county, and towards the mayntenance of the Army, and other affayrs of this kingdom, as by the sd ordinance of Parliament more fully appeareth—these are, therefore, by virtue of the same warrant, to will and require you to give warning to those whose names are hereunder written, to be, and appear before the sd comms at Beccles, at the sign of the King's Head, upon Thursday next, being the 27 day of this present month, by nine of the clock in the morning, to rate and assesse all and every person or persons as be chargeable by the sd ordinance, according to the weekly proportion. And hereof fayl not, as you will answere to the contrary at your peril. Dated the 24 of April, 1643.

Your too friend,

WM. BROWNE (Chief Constable).

Four days after comes a warrant from the same William Browne, to command all the trained soldiers within the town of Somerleyton, who "were under the command of

¹¹ Blomefield.

¹² Clarendon, vol. i. p. 412.

Sir John Wentworth, Knt., Colonell and Captain of the trayned bands, to appear on Monday next, at 8 o'clock in the morning, at the house of William Killet, the elder, at Gorleston, with their armes complete, there to be exercised, &c.: every man to bring with him powder, match, and bullets, according to former directions; and that they fayle not to make their appearances once a weake upon the same daye, time, and place, before the saide Captaine, or his officers. Dated 28th April, 1643."¹³

It appears that these trainings soon became distasteful to the people, even if they had ever been congenial to their habits and feelings; for on the 27th of October following, an order was issued, requiring the constables of Blundeston and Somerleyton to "give warning to all those hereunder named to appear before me upon Munday next, by one of the clock in the afternoon; being the 30th day of this present October, with their armes, and a fortnight's pay, according to your former warrant, and to let them know if any of them fayle, they must expect to be sent for by a troop of horse, and to receive further punishment: and you yourselves to make returns of the traininge, givinge to the chiefe constables of your Hundred, under your hands upon Sunday next, who are to return the same unto us. Richard Reed to appeare in pson with his armes. John Aldrich to appeare in the armes of Francis Aldrich. William Bennington to appeare in pson with his armes."

It seems that these trained men, who are called "*voluntier* souldiers," received eight pence per diem pay. The service, however, grew more and more hateful to these volunteers, who at length deserted in considerable numbers; in consequence of which the chief constable, already named, was compelled to issue an imperative order to seize the persons of the deserters. Accordingly in July, 1645, appeared the following mandate.

These are streightly to charge and comand you, by virtue of a warrant to me and others directed, to make diligent search in all suspicious places within your townes, for the apprehending of all persons whose names are hereunder inserted, or any other which were impressed at the last impresse at Beccles, who have received their impresse money, and since ran away from their conductors. And that you carry them to the Goale at Blythborough, who have warrant to receive them: hereof fayle not. Dated the 30 day of this inst. July, 1645.

Your too friend,

WM. BROWNE.

To the Constables of Somerleyton, Ashby, and every one of them.

Robert Brook, of Huntingfield.

James Docker, of Rumburgh.

¹³ Wentworth MSS.

William Coddendam, of Sibton.
 Thomas Greene, of Peasenhall.
 Francis Savage, of Thedton.¹⁴
 Tho. Stanford, of Bungay.
 Tho. Sage, of the same.
 Richard Millar, of the same.

Tho. Ferrier, of Wangford.
 Jo. Pierce, of Darsham.
 Jo. Jay, of the same.
 Jo. Miller, of the same.
 Edmd. Smith, of Beccles.

Next follows in this interesting manuscript,

The account given in to the Commie at Saxmundham, the 7 Nov. 1645.

Somerleyton.

The money lent upon the proportions, as near as we can gather, was thus :

	£.	s.	d.
Sir John Wentworth, Knt., paid to Mr. Henry Jenkinson, the 1st day of March, 1642, the sum of	100	0	0
More the said Sir John Wentworth paid to Dr. Dade, the 3 day of April, 1643, and by the said Doctor delivered into the hand of Colonel Francis Russell, the 9 day of the same month, to the use of the King and Parliament, the sum of	200	0	0
John Brinkley, clk., then minister of Somerleyton, to the said Mr. Jenkinson	10	0	0

Then comes an order, signed by the same William Browne, to the constables and churchwardens of Somerleyton and Ashbye, and every one of them, to deliver up the Book of Common Prayer, belonging to the several churches of their parish, in accordance with an Act of Parliament passed for that purpose.

In virtue of a warrant from the come of Bury St. Edmund, these are to will and require you to appear at Beccles, the 15 of this instant November, and there to deliver to the Commie your Common Prayer Book, or give a good account of what is become of it. You are also to cause the directory for the public worship and praise of God to be published by your minister in his parish, the next Lord's day, or within ten days after the receipt thereof, and practised accordingly: and you are hereby charged to use your best endeavours to see the same put in due execution; and to give information from tyme to tyme to the general commie sitting at Bury, the first Tuesday in every moneth, if your minister, or other pson whatsoever within your parish, shall not diligently performe their several dutyes, and conforme themselves in their several places and callings, as the ordinance directs.

WM. BROWNE.

On the 13th of December, 1648, the inhabitants of Somerleyton were compelled to quarter eight foot soldiers, at the rate of five shillings per week for each man. Edmund Barber, the minister, had one man. And on the 10th of December, 1650, the following declaration was imposed upon every inhabitant; all of whom signed it except one.

¹⁴ Query, Theberton.

I do declare and promise, that I will be true and faythful to the comen wealth of England, as the same is now established, without a King or House of Lords.

Signed by JOHN WENTWORTH,
JOHN GURNEYS,
And 52 other inhabitants.

We, whose names are subscribed, being chosen to tender the engagement in the towne abovesayd, do truly and confidently affirme that every man that is an inhabitant of the same towne have subscribed their names: onely one man hath neglected it, by name Thomas Rason.

Witness our hands, JOHN MARTYN.
DANIEL ALDRICH.

The following year Sir John Wentworth died, and was buried in Somerleyton church; but his widow retained the manor, in dower, for life.

Soon after we find her, as a partisan of royalty, entertaining Fuller, the confidential chaplain of the late monarch's family, and who was probably, at this time, in correspondence with the exiled party at Brussels. The extracts from the Wentworth papers now assume a different character. The Commonwealth was tottering, and the tide of political events returning to its old channel. In consequence of which comes, first, an order to the constables of Somerleyton and Ashby to re-provide prayer-books for their churches.

These are, in His Majesty's name, to charge and comand you, and every of you, to give notice to the several persons heerunder written to appear before the Comns at the sign of the Swan at Leistoffe, upon the 22 of this inst. February, by 8 of the clocke in the morninge, to take such instructions from them, as by an Act of Parliament is directed for them to doe; and also that you give notice to the churchwardens of your several townes, that they provide a Booke of Comon Prayer, and Divine Service to the minister of your respective parishes, where the said book is wantynge: and alsoe, that you warne all alehouse keepers, and butchers, within your said townes, to appeare before the said comns at the time and place aforesaid; and to bringe with them sufficient sureties to enter recognizance for the observation of Lent, and fish dayes, accordinge to the law, in that case made and provided. And further, that you yourselves be then and there present to give in your presentments in writinge, accordinge to the 14 articles: and hereof you and they are not to fayle, as you and they will answer the contrary at your perills.

Given under my hand this present 15 of February, 1660.

ANTHONY WINSOR.

Then came a warrant to towne the 12 day of March, 1660, for all such persons as find light horses, to appear at Blythborough the 14 of the same moneth, with back, brest, and head piece, and half a pound of powder.

Then came another warrant to towne the 15 day of Aprill, for the horse to meet at Bliborough, as the other the Munday after, and for the foote to meet at Mutforde bridge on the Fryday after that.

Next follows an account of the celebration of the King's coronation at Somerleyton.

Somerleyton, April 22, 1661.

There was collected in our parish of Somerleyton this present 22 of Aprill, towards the building a bone fire at the coronation of King Charles the 2, which was performed upon St. George's Day, 1661.

	£.	s.	d.
The Lady Anne Wentworth	0	10	0
John Garneys, Esq.	0	10	0
Mrs. Ann Garneys	0	2	0
Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Susan Soames	0	5	0
Mr. Parker	0	5	0
Mrs. Elizabeth Brampton	0	1	0
Mrs. Ruth Barnes	0	1	0
James Holloway	0	1	0
Thomas Rason ¹⁵	0	1	0
Mr. Leake	0	1	2
John Mewse	0	1	6
His wife	0	0	1
Richard Lea	0	0	6
Margaret Barrett	0	0	6
Dorothy Buck	0	0	6
Ann Berry	0	0	6
	£2	0	9

Mr. Starston, an hundred of faggot wood.

John Aldrich, a quarter of firs.¹⁶

John Everard, a quarter of firs.

Robert Hayne, of Herryngflete, a quarter of firs.

John Woolsey, a quarter of broome.

John Dale, a load of bones.

	£.	s.	d.
Ordered as followeth.			
For two barrels of beer	1	2	0
For 9 duzen of bread for the poor	0	9	0
For tobacco	0	2	0
For pipes	0	0	4
For pruens	0	2	0
For sugar	0	0	6
For a carpenter to make the booth	0	1	6
For one to watch the booth at night	0	1	0

With this extract end the matters connected with the politics of the times. How many curious facts; how much of the under-current of private passion and prejudice,

¹⁵ This was the stout cavalier who refused to sign allegiance to the Parliament.

¹⁶ Firs: by this is meant furze or gorse.

which stimulated the leaders of the various factions in that distracted period, have been lost to posterity by the dispersion or destruction of similar family papers!

The same manuscripts also contain a "warrant under the hand of Thomas Smith, Clke of Sewers, to the constables of Somerleyton, to raise £4. 9s. 5*d.* towards makinge the defence and fortification against the sea-breach at Lowestoft, dated 22nd May, 1661; and to collect on the 24th of June, in the same year, £8. 18s. 10*d.* for the same purposes."

Wicker Well, a charming and retired piece of water, luxuriantly fringed with shrubs and drooping trees, is the property of Cammant Money, Esq., who has an estate and seat in this parish.

THE CHURCH,

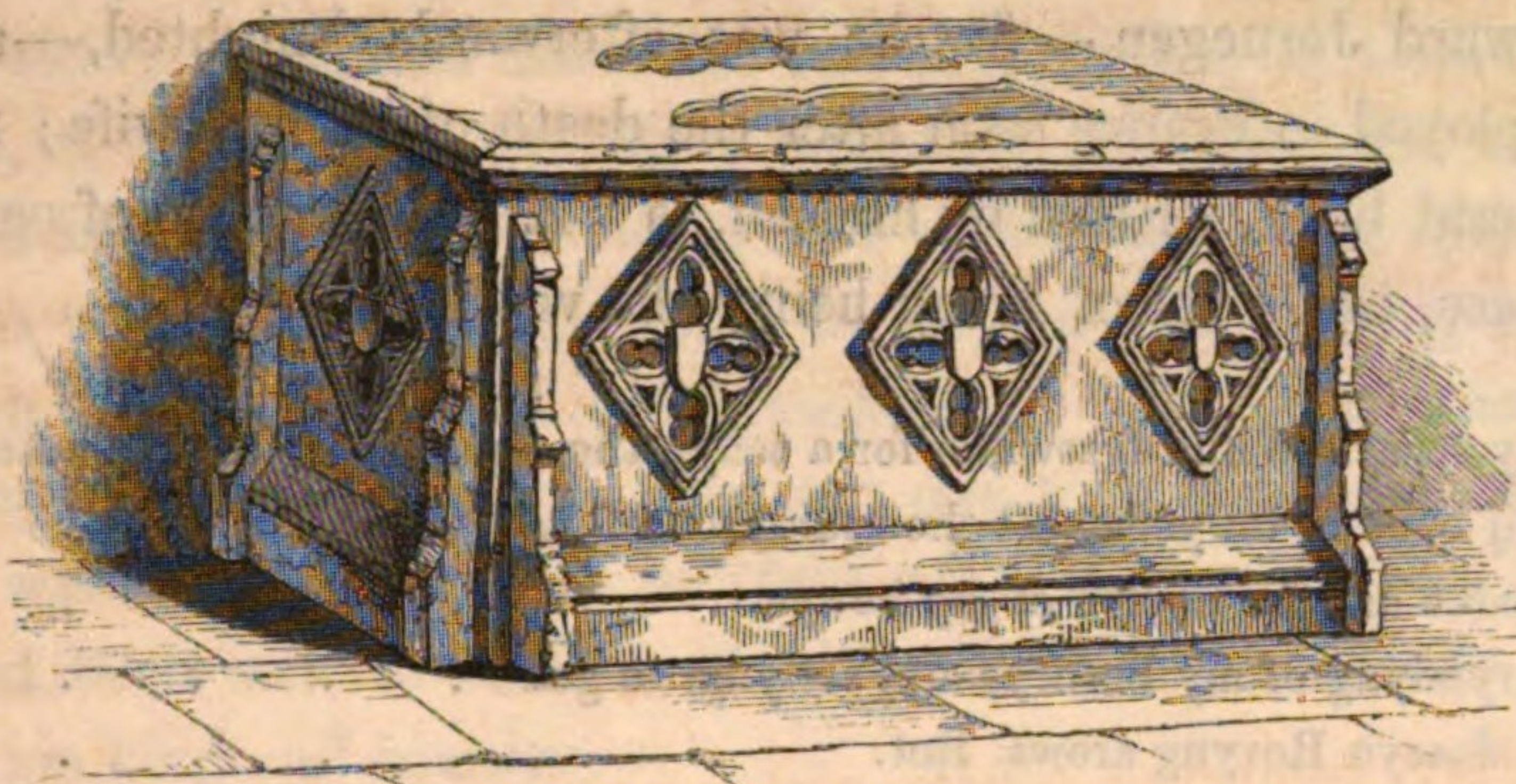
dedicated to St. Mary, comprises a nave with a north aisle of very narrow proportions, measuring only 7 feet 8 inches in width; a chancel, and a square tower at the west end of the fabric, in which are five bells. The ancient covering of lead was sold a few years since by the churchwardens and inhabitants, who obtained the permission of the Bishop of Norwich to do this, and substitute glazed tiles. The interior, which is damp and neglected to an unusual degree, contains an octangular font, round the base of which are traces of an inscription now illegible, a screen of perpendicular workmanship, in sound condition, but daubed with blue and red paint—a piscina, with two drains, and the seats of a sedilia. On the floor lie several very old sepulchral memorials, from some of which the brasses have been reaved. In the windows was formerly some painted glass, as we learn from the 'Wentworth Papers,' in which appears the following notice.

For fynes levied we never had any, only Thomas Manby, the churchwarden, that time being, paid to Francis Jessop, Quarter-Master to Captain William Browning, the sum of 6 shillings and 8 pence for certayne painted glasse, being in the church windows.

There were in this church, before the Reformation, the image of the Virgin Mary, in the chancel, with provision for a light to be burnt before it; and the altar of St. Catharine. John Grene de Somerleton, by his last will, proved the 11th day of August, 1401, leaves his body to be buried in the church of Somerleton before the altar of St. Katherine. John Reppys de Heryngflete, by his will dated the 23rd of September, 1473, leaves to the guild of St. Mary de Somerleton *iijs. iiij^{d.}*; and John Jernegan, of Worlingham Parva, who died in 1474, leaves to the same guild *iijs. iiij^{d.}*.¹⁷

¹⁷ MSS. Regist. Norwic.

Monuments.—The oldest remaining sepulchral memorial, and the one which obtains most attention, is an altar-tomb of a dark hard kind of marble, standing against the north wall of the chancel, within the communion rails.



Camden conjectured it to be the monument of Sir Richard Jernegan, Privy Counsellor to King Henry VIII., but the arms of Appleyard, which appear upon it, impaled with Jernegan, prove it to have been placed to the memory of Sir Thomas Jernegan, who married Joan, daughter of John Appleyard, of Dunston, in Norfolk, and who died about the middle of the fifteenth century. Weever, quoting from Camden, says the inscription on the tomb was

**Jesu Christ, both God and man,
Sabe thy serbant Jernegan.**

That Sir Thomas was interred cross-legged, as Weever relates, is disproved by an examination of the matrix in which his effigy was inlaid. This knight and his lady glazed the chancel windows at their expense, and their arms were remaining there when Blomefield wrote his 'History of Norfolk.'¹⁸ Appleyard's arms, as sculptured on the tomb, differ from their usual bearings, which are azure, a chev. or, between 3 owls argent. On the tomb in this church, the chevron is exchanged for a fess; and in the glass formerly in the windows, the fess was expressed componee vert and gules.¹⁹ The old stone on the floor of the chancel, from which the brass effigies have been reaved, covers the remains of Edward Jernegan who died on the 6th of January, 1515, seized of this manor with those of Horham, Newton, Corton, Stonham-Jernegan, Wathe, Lowestoft, East, West, North, and South Leet in Gorleston, Mutford, Ashby, &c. He is buried by the side of his first wife, whose inscription Weever has preserved.

¹⁸ Blomefield.

¹⁹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

Margaret Jernegan, the wyf of Edward Jernegan, Esquyer, daughter of Sir Edmund Bedingfelde, Knt., which Margaret dyed the xxiiij of Marche, anno MDIII.

This Sir Edward Jernegan,—for he was afterwards knighted,—appears to have been actively employed in France soon after the death of his first wife; for among other entries in an account book, written by himself, is “A remembrance of certyn money leyd owgthe from lamase, the v yer of Kyng henry the viij.”

Itm. payd to my cossyn Willm fyzewillm for a schyp the weke next aft seynt peter .	£ xxx.
Itm. payd for vij bylls in tewysday aft the asumpcon of our lady	vij ^s .
Itm. payd the same day for makyn of my bowys	xl ^s .
Itm. payd for gryndyng of my harneys and setting, to ged	xxvj ^s . iiij ^d .
Itm. payd for a doseyn Rovyng arows. Rot.	iiij ^s .
Itm. delyvyd to Rychard for the reward of bryngyng home of my harneys from Cales .	iiij ^s . iiij ^d .
Itm. to the same Rychard for makynge clene of almen Revetts that came frome Calys	xx ^d . ²⁰

There is a costly cumbrous monument placed against the north wall of the chancel, commemorating Sir John and Lady Wentworth. Their figures, in busto, represent the knight in armour with the peaked beard of the times, and the lady habited in a plain dress. An escutcheon bears the arms of Wentworth, az. a saltire erm., between 4 eagles displayed or: impaling Soame, gules, a chev. between 3 mallets or, quartered with 2nd, az. 2 bars gemelles and a canton or, charged with a tun; and 3rd, gules, 6 annulets or.

Sir John died Oct. 12, 1651, aged 77, fifty-two years after his marriage with Anne, daughter of Stephen Soame, of London.

In a niche of the south wall is placed a bust of Sir Thomas Allin, and on a tablet is inscribed the following memorial of this gallant officer.

Near this place lies interred Sir Thomas Allin, Bart., whose unshaken fidelity to his sovereign, Charles y^e 2nd, was rewarded with many marks of his royal favour, having had the honour of serving him as Admiral in his fleets, in the British and Mediterranean Seas: Controller of the Navy, Captain of Sandgate Castle, and Master of the Trinity House. He died in 1686, in y^e 73 year of his age.

There is a fine engraved portrait of Sir Thomas at the age of 73, done from a painting by Kneller, and which till lately adorned the Hall at Somerleyton. There is also a folio engraving of him as Admiral of the English fleet, after a picture supposed to have been painted abroad. In Grainger²¹ is the following honourable mention of

²⁰ MSS. R. Reeve, Esq.

²¹ Biog. Hist. vol. iii. p. 387.

this gallant commander. "This brave and expert officer was the first that entered upon hostilities against the Dutch, in 1665, by attacking their Smyrna fleet. The squadron that he commanded consisted but of eight ships; but what he wanted in force, he supplied by courage and conduct. He killed their Commodore Brackel; took four merchantmen, richly laden, and drove the rest into the Bay of Cadiz. On the 25th of July, 1666, he, at the head of the White Squadron, fell upon the Dutch van, entirely defeated it, and killed the three Admirals who commanded that division. The victory of this day, in which he had a principal hand, was indisputably on the side of the English. Then it was that De Ruyter exclaimed, 'My God, what a wretch am I! among so many thousand bullets, is there not one to put me out of my pain?'" Sir Thomas Allin was created a Baronet in 1669, after his return from the Mediterranean, whither he had been sent to chastise the Algerines; which service he effected to the satisfaction of his king and country.

Thomazin, wife of Ashurst Allin, died September 16th, 1749, aged 35. Mrs. Amy Norris, daughter of John Norris, Esq., of Witton, in Norfolk, by Caroline, daughter of Colonel Playters, of Ellough, died June 23rd, 1751, aged 35. Mary Love, died September 28th, 1777, aged 55. John Love, A. M., 46 years Rector of Somerleyton and Blundeston, died December 13th, 1816, aged 73. Susanna Jane, his widow, died January 28th, 1824, aged 75. Bernard Saltonstall, son of Richard Saltonstall, of South Ockendon in Essex, died 1631. John Garneys, second son of John Garneys, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife, died February 2nd, 1660. Robert Baldwin, M. A., Rector, was buried April 13th, 1729. Christopher Eachard, Rector, died November 29th, 1706, aged 58. Eachard impales, erm. a lion ramp.

The registers of Somerleyton commence in 1558: they contain notices of the collection in church of £2. 0s. 9d. for a bonfire at the coronation of Charles II., and of £2. 12s. subscribed on the 1st of May, 1689, for the relief of the inhabitants of Southwold.

February 6th, 1701, license was granted by the Bishop of Norwich to Sir Richard Allin, patron, and to Christopher Eachard, rector, of Somerleyton and Haskby, to remove an old bell, and re-cast the same, and hang it in the steeple at Somerleyton.

RECTORS OF SOMERLEYTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Sequest: Commiss: Joanna Walram	1309	
Robert de Somerton . . .	1318	Lady Katherine Fitz-Osbert.
Henry de Setherton . . .	1330	Ead.
John Reynald, de Rendlesham .	1354	John Jernegan.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Henry Botild	1361	The King; guardian of John, son of John Noion.
Ric: Dame, de Keteringham	1385	Joanne, wife of John Jernegan.
John Baker, de Helmingham	1393	Joan de Loudham.
John Yoe	1432	John Jernegan, Esq.
John Grey	1464	Id.
Thomas Crosse	1475	Id.
John Wright		
Thomas Mayster	1486	Id.
William Mawer	1503	Id.
William Copydike	1506	Edward Jerningham, Esq.
Richard Bricely		
John Christmas	1537	W ^m . Kingston, Knt., and Maria his wife.
Augustine Thirkild	1553	John Jernegan, Knt.
Edmund Bownes		Id.
William Melling	1576	Ed. Garnett, de Casterton in Westmoreland.
John Brinsley	1632	John Wentworth, Knt.
Edmund Barber	1644	Id.
Edward Mihill	1661	Lady Anne Wentworth.
Christopher Eachard	1690	Sir Thomas Allin.
Robert Baldwin	1707	Sir Rich ^d . Allin.
John Bacon	1729	Sir Thomas Allin.
Ashurst Allin	1732	Id.
John Love	1770	Mary Love, widow, p. h. v.
Edward Missenden Love	1817	George Anguish, Clk.

Domesd: Estimatio ejusdem xvij marc.

Somerleyton contains, according to the late survey of the parish, 1391 acres, 10 perches, the tithes of which have been commuted for £ 358. 13s. 2d., besides £ 4. 6s. 10d. for a market garden = £ 363; and there are 44 acres, 3 roods, 4 perches, of glebe land. Population in 1841,—514.

Charities.—A piece of marsh land, containing 11 acres, 1 rood, 27 perches, was allotted, on the enclosure, for the purpose of purchasing fuel for the poor; and a rent of 50s. per annum is paid for the use of a ditch belonging to the marsh land.

Lowestoft.

LOWESTOFT enjoys a degree of geographical celebrity as crowning the summit of a bold commanding point, which forms the most eastern headland in Great Britain. The face of the cliff on which it stands sinks abruptly towards the ocean; but notwithstanding its exposure "to the wasting sea-breeze keen," is covered with gardens, trees, and villas; displaying to the passing mariner a verdant prospect, unrivalled on the eastern coast. The view from the summit of this cliff is rather extensive than beautiful: for while it commands a majestical expanse of open sea, scattered over with fleets of shipping, passing in quick succession, or closely grouped in its sheltered roadstead when detained by adverse winds, its elevation renders the expanse monotonous, and the objects floating on its bosom, too minute. A more pleasing view is obtained from the houses placed midway on its southern slope, whence the ocean and its busy occupants, seen at a lower angle, appear to more advantage. The beach of this favourite watering-place is admirably adapted to bathing, and its air is healthy, pure, and bracing; though, perhaps, too keen, in early spring, for invalid or shattered constitutions. Some of its inhabitants have, nevertheless, reached the advanced age of more than one hundred years.

There is every reason to believe that Gillingwater is right in supposing the elevated site of this town to have been well known to our aboriginal ancestors; but that it was a considerable fishing town at that early period, there is, I think, no evidence to determine. It might, like Gorleston, have served the Romans as a speculative fortress, and been in active communication with the garrison at Burgh. But of its history during the era of Anglo-Roman domination we possess no memorials: it is noticed by neither Antoninus nor Ptolemy; for we dare not select it as the site of *'Eξοχὴ*, the only station recorded by the latter between the mouth of the Garrienum and the river Eidumenia. Neither did Lowestoft attain any considerable importance under its Saxon owners, by whom it was appended to the great manor of Gorleston, and accounted for in the Conqueror's Survey, among his own estates, as a *beruite* with four carucates of land, considerably decreased in value since the time of Earl Gurth, its former lord.¹

The only *manor* which existed in Lowestoft at this period was called Aketorp, held

¹ Gorlestuna tenuit Guert, &c.; in Gernemutha xxiiii piscatores ptinent huic manerio, et in Lothu Wistoft 1 beruita iiii car: &c. Domesday. Terra Regis, 283.

by Ailmar, a priest, which comprised 80 acres of land, and was valued at ten shillings. Its worth had not been depreciated by the shock of the Norman invasion, and, like the rest of the parish, was then in the hands of the King.² The name of this manor is now lost and its bounds forgotten, though both were recorded in surveys a few centuries past.³ In the reign of Edward I., Lowestoft was still united in all legal proceedings with the manor of Gorleston.⁴

The name of this town has partaken of all the looseness of ancient orthography. In the 'Magna Britannia' it is called Lestock, Lowistoke, and Lovistoke: Leystoffe and Laistoe are more modern spellings; but all are, doubtless, corruptions of its Saxon name of Lothu Wistoft, under which it is entered in Domesday. To deduce this from Lothbrog, a noble Dane, whose history and very existence are, at the least, apocryphal, seems a forced derivation. Lothu Wistoft, more probably, signifies the toft, or cluster of houses, seated by the Loth, or slow river: a name, which the smaller and less important embouchure of the extensive rivers, which at that remote era filled the valleys of East Anglia, might fairly obtain, in contradistinction to the Gar, or the rapid, which joined the ocean by Gorleston. The present bed of the Waveney plainly shows, that in ancient days, the main stream of that river turned northwards to join the tides of the Gar. The mouth of Lake Lothing is proved to have been shallow, at the remotest period, by the discovery of elephants' teeth in a fossilized state, which were excavated from the bed of the ancient river, when the new cut was made about the year 1828. These teeth lay at the depth of not more than eight or nine feet below high-water mark, firmly embedded in the oaze.

The manorial history of Lowestoft is a recapitulation of that of the Hundred of Lothingland; which continuing royal demesne till the reign of Henry III., was granted by that monarch to John Baliol and his wife. From them it passed to John Baliol, King of Scotland, who, on renouncing his allegiance to Edward I., lost all his English estates. It was next conferred on John de Dreux, Earl of Richmond, in 1306, and was held by John, his nephew and heir, at his death, in 1341. In 1376, Edward III. granted the manor of 'Lowystoft,' and the Hundred of 'Luddynglond,' to John de Surrey, who, in the grant, is styled 'Chivaler,' to hold with all its liberties and immunities.⁵

Next passing to Michael de la Pole in the reign of Henry IV., it was forfeited to the Crown by his descendant Edmund de la Pole, who was attainted of high treason,

² Domesday. Terra Regis, 284 b.

³ Pro maner. et terr. in Caldecot in Fritton, Spitling in Gorleston, et Akenthorp in Lowestoft, Suff. Esch. Norf. 18 Ed. IV. p. 35. Tanner's MSS.

⁴ Rotuli Hundredorum, v. ii. p. 160.

⁵ Rot. orig. anno 51 Ed. III. rot. 13.

and beheaded in 1513. It was soon after re-granted by Henry VIII. to Edmund Jernegan, Esq., from whom it has passed in succession to the families of Wentworth, Garneys, Allin, and Anguish. Falling by heirship to Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne, it was sold in August, 1844, to Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., of the city of Westminster, who is the present lord.

Lowestoft, as one of the parishes in the division of the Half Hundred called North Leet, appears to have had the chief-pledges of the town sworn at Corton; and, perhaps, had all the general presentments and amercements made there; but on the return of the jury into the town, they then presented, at the adjourned court, the particular nuisances, &c., which were entered in the court-books of the manor, separate from the entries in the books appertaining to the Hundred; in which all the courts were regularly entered, in the order in which they were held, without any regard to classification.⁶

However flourishing its trade might have been, Lowestoft does not appear to have acquired the privileges of a market-town till the year 1442, when Henry VI. granted to William de la Pole, its lord, a charter for a market and two fairs to be held there.

Rex conc: Willo: de la Pole, marchioni et com: Suffolciæ, 1 mercatum, et duas ferias infra villam Lothuwistoft, in Suff: quæ est de antiquo dnico coronæ Angliæ: nec non seneschallum suum ad tenend: curias suas mercati et fer. Et quod nullus justiciarius, vicecomes, eschater, inquisitor, ballivus, seneschallus, hospit: aut clericus, mercat: vill: prædict: in aliquo intromittat. Ac quod omnes homines, tenentes et residentes infra villam prædictam sint per totum regnum quieti de omni consuetudine et custuma bonorum et rerum suarum venalium.⁷

From the words "*infra villam*," which occur in the preceding charter, Gillingwater, and his followers, have assumed that the ancient market and fairs were held on the beach *beneath* the town. Such, however, is unquestionably an erroneous inference, as the word '*infra*,' in the low Latin of the Middle Ages, signified '*within*,' and is so used in this very charter, which grants an exemption to all the inhabitants "*tenentes et residentes infra villam prædictam*," holding possessions and residing, not *below*, but *within* the aforesaid town. Examples of this use of the preposition must be familiar to every one accustomed to charters of the Middle Ages; and I subjoin one or two in proof of my position.⁸

I believe no evidence could be shown that the markets were ever held on the beach

⁶ MSS. Robt. Reeve, Esq., of Lowestoft, from Court-Leets.

⁷ Carta 21 Hen. VI. n. 10.

⁸ "*Infra diocesis suam Eboracensem*." "Apud Leystoft, *infra* dioc: Norwicensem, et alibi in diversis locis *infra* regnum Angliæ:" from an extract which will be given at full length in a subsequent page. To translate *infra*, *below*, would here be nonsense. It would be easy to multiply examples.

at Lowestoft. It is certain that in the sixteenth century they were kept in a large area, called the Old Market, near the Blue Anchor Lane, whence, in 1698, upon the erection of a corn-cross, they were removed to a part of the street contiguous to that building. In 1703, this spot having been found inconvenient, the parish resolved to pull down the White Horse Inn, the front of which was parallel with those of the adjoining houses, and rebuild it further backwards. This having been carried into execution, and the new inn called the Queen's Head, from Queen Anne, who was then the reigning Sovereign, the markets have ever since been kept on the area so obtained. In this place, also, the fairs are now held on the 12th of May and the 10th of October, though they were formerly kept to the westward of the town, at the end of Fair Lane. Gillingwater tells us they were removed to the present spot in 1768, upon an application to the Rev. Sir Ashurst Allin, then lord of the manor of Lowestoft. The market is kept on Wednesday.

In virtue of the preceding charter, the inhabitants of Lowestoft claimed exemption from the payment of toll, stallage, pontage, and other feudal exactions, which then pressed hard on the commonalty of the realm, but have now become so entirely obsolete, that little more than their names remain.

Charles I., in the early part of his reign, exemplified the privileges of ancient demesne manors, that they were free from payment of toll, and from contribution to the expenses of Knights of Parliament; and were not to be put in assizes upon juries, or any recognizances, except in the court of the manor. So important were these privileges, possessed by the men of Lowestoft, then considered,—and the last is one of real benefit,—that on the 26th of February, 1629, they obtained from the Crown a recapitulation of a writ of exemption, granted by Queen Elizabeth on the 27th of May, in the fifteenth year of her reign. Appended to the charter of King Charles is the following heavy bill paid for this renewal.⁹

	£.	s.	d.
Secret warrant	6	0	0
To Mr. Attor ^y . bill p. clerk of the Pattent	7	0	0
Door keeper	0	1	0
Secretary, and signing bill	6	0	0
Signet	3	10	0
Privy seal	3	10	0
Pattent office	3	5	0
Hannop	6	10	0
	£	35	16 0

⁹ Ex charta orig.

Lowestoft has participated more largely in the miseries of sickness, and the distresses of civil commotions, than might have been expected from its healthy site and remote situation. In 1349, the great plague which devastated the continent of Europe, raged at Yarmouth with fatal fury, and is supposed to have visited Lowestoft with equal malignity.¹⁰ In 1547 it again made its appearance here with such appalling violence, that three pounds a week, for a considerable time, were expended in the relief of the distressed poor, besides the sum of above £50 raised by charitable contributions.¹¹ In 1579, when the plague is said to have visited the town for the third time, the deaths amounted to sixty: in the previous year there occurred but thirty burials, and in 1580, forty-nine; so that, probably, the malady had not then been entirely subdued.¹² In 1585, there must also have been another visitation of this pestilential scourge; for in that year the baptisms were only forty-four, while 134 bodies had been consigned to the grave.¹³

Again in 1603, thirty-one entries only occur under the head of baptisms, and the recorded deaths are 316;¹⁴ 280 of which took place in five consecutive months, reckoning from the commencement of May. In 1635, 170 persons died of the plague or the sweating sickness.¹⁵ In estimating the extent of these direful ravages, which, owing to more cleanly habits, a better knowledge of medicine, and above all to the staying hand of Providence, are almost unknown among us, we must bear in view the small numerical amount of the population at the times. Lowestoft in 1603, in all probability, did not contain above 1000 inhabitants; so that a like visitation would now, under similar disadvantages, carry off, in one year, above twelve hundred persons.

Gillingwater relates a series of shipwrecks and melancholy scenes of distress which have, at various times, occurred on this dangerous coast; and gives an account of a dreadful storm which happened on the 18th of December, 1770. The relation was communicated to the 'Ipswich Journal,' and published in that newspaper on the 29th of December following. It was written by Robert Reeve, Esq., Solicitor, of Lowestoft, who himself witnessed the awful scene which he has so graphically described.

"The dreadful storm on Wednesday the 19th instant, began about one o'clock in the morning, and continued with increasing violence till five; when the wind suddenly changed from the south-west to the north-west, and for two hours raged with a fury that was hardly ever equalled. Anchors and cables proved too feeble a security for the ships, which instantly parting from them, and running on board each other, produced a confusion, neither to be described nor conceived: not a few immediately foundered; others were dismasted, and none escaped unhurt. At daylight a scene of the most tragic distress was exhibited. Those who first beheld it assert, that no less than eighteen ships were on the sand before this place at one and the same time; and many others were seen to sink. Of those on the sand, one-half were

¹⁰ Gillingwater, p. 58.

¹¹ Idem.

¹² Parish Registers.

¹³ Idem.

¹⁴ Idem.

¹⁵ Idem.

entirely demolished with their crews, before nine o'clock ; the rest were preserved a few hours longer : but this dreadful pause served only to aggravate the destruction of the unhappy men who belonged to them, who betook themselves to the masts and rigging. These continually breaking, eight or ten were not unfrequently seen to perish at a time, without the possibility of being assisted. Fifteen only, about two in the afternoon, were taken off one of the wrecks ; and about as many more were saved by taking to their boats, or getting on board other ships when they boarded each other. It is impossible to collect with certainty how many lives, or how many ships, were lost in this terrible hurricane. Twenty-five at least, perhaps thirty ships, and two hundred men, do not seem to be an exaggerated account. This, indeed, is too small a calculation, if credit is to be given to one of the seamen, who declares he saw six vessels sink not far without the Stanford, among which was a large ship bound for Lisbon, with sixty or seventy passengers on board. One or two of the ships which are lost belong to Yarmouth, and one to Plymouth ; but the generality are colliers, and belong to Sunderland, Shields, and other places in the north.

“The concern this destructive scene occasioned to the spectators of it, was increased by the following circumstance. When the masts of one of the ships, on which were eight or nine men, fell, two of them were some time afterwards seen struggling among the wreck ; and at length, after unremitted efforts, got upon the hull. In the afternoon, a pilot-boat ventured from the shore ; but it was found impracticable to administer any relief to the unfortunate sufferers, whom they were compelled to leave in their forlorn state ; an approaching dark, cold, stormy night, heightening the horrors of their situation. The next day, to the astonishment of every body, one of the men was observed to be alive ; and about noon the boat again attempted to save him, and approached so near as to ask the poor fellow several questions ; but the hull on which he was, being surrounded with wreck, and the sea running very high, it was impossible to rescue him from the impending danger. He was at the stern of the ship : towards her head the sailors conceived it barely possible to board her with safety. This they told the unhappy man they would attempt, and bid him walk to the place ; but replying that he was too weak to change his situation, they were again obliged to leave him, making signs of his inconceivable distress. The ensuing night put a period to his misfortunes and life.”

Mr. Aldous Arnold, a merchant of the town, very humanely offered ten pounds to any person who would take this man off the wreck.¹⁶

A storm of apparently equal violence, though its effects at sea are not expressly recorded, burst with sudden vehemence over Lowestoft and its vicinity, just previous to the death of Cardinal Wolsey. Like the hurricane which, at a later period, immediately succeeded the decease of Oliver Cromwell, it seems to have served as a subject of discourse to the vulgar, who, according as they were friends or opponents of these extraordinary men, endeavoured, by forced inferences, to interpret each occurrence as a confirmation of their particular prejudices. The notice of this violent storm occurs in a letter from Dr. Tanner to Dr. Charlett, dated Norwich, August 10th, 1719.

¹⁶ A Life-boat Society was instituted on Sept. 6, 1800, by Robert Sparrow, Esq., of Worlingham. The first boat cost £105. The funds for the maintenance of this humane institution are raised by voluntary subscription, and it has proved instrumental in preserving the lives of numerous shipwrecked mariners.

“On the other side is a coeval note, at the end of an old MS. belonging to our cathedral, of the odd exit of the great Cardinal Wolsey, not mentioned, I think, in Cavendish, or any of the historians; much like Oliver’s wind. ‘Ad finem annalium Bartholomei Cotton, MS. in biblioth: eccl: Cath: Norw: habetur hæc notata.’—Anno Xti 1530, nocte immediate sequente quartum diem Novemb: vehemens ventus, quasi per totam Angliam accidebat; et die proxime sequente, quinto, sc: die ejusd: mensis, circa horam primam post meridiem, captus erat Dns Thomas Wulsye, Cardinalis, in ædibus suis de Cahow (Cawood), infra diocesis suam Eboracensem; et postea, in itinere ejus versus Londoniam, vigilia Sci: Andree, prox: sequente, apud Leycestriam moriebatur; quo die, ventus, quasi Gehennalis, tunc ferè per totam Angliam accidebat, cujus vehementiâ apud Leystoft, infra Dioc. Norwicensem, et alibi, in diversis locis infra regnum Anglie, multæ naves perierunt.”¹⁷

To the evils of storm and tempest, the records of Lowestoft have to add those of war and fire. During Kett’s insurrection, so ably detailed by Blomefield, the town of Lowestoft was repeatedly plundered by the lawless bands of that insurgent, who had made themselves masters of the island of Lothingland. On one occasion they carried off six pieces of cannon, with which they proceeded to batter the walls of Yarmouth, and, notwithstanding a defeat sustained at the hands of the men of that borough, succeeded in joining their leader at Moushold Heath. Queen Elizabeth afterwards presented to the people of Lowestoft four pieces of ordnance and two slings, to replace those carried off by the riotous insurgents. At the time of the threatened invasion by Spain, the townsmen of Lowestoft were compelled to raise upwards of £ 200, which they employed in the purchase of ammunition, cannon, and warlike stores; in fitting out an armed pinnace for the defence of the coast, and in raising earth-works for the protection of the town. On the 29th of December, 1636, a rate was made by the constables and chief inhabitants of the town, under which the sum of £ 34. 13s. 4d. was collected “towards the provydinge and settinge forth of a shipp of warre of the burden of 800 tunnes for his Ma^{ties}. service.” The rate was signed by Robert Allin, Roger Arnold, John Mason, &c. Several curious returns connected with the raising of this impost, which the sheriffs could not collect, through the alleged inability of the inhabitants of Suffolk to pay it, have been given in the Introduction to this work.¹⁸ There are no returns preserved for Lowestoft.

Upon the first rupture between Charles I. and his Parliament, Lowestoft declared openly for the Royal cause, while Yarmouth as warmly espoused the interest of his opponents. The result of this party spirit was a renewal of the animosities and jealousies which had long existed between these two towns, relative to the disposal of their merchandize within certain boundaries. Armed vessels were fitted out by both parties to cruize in search of each other, and their encounters usually terminated in the

¹⁷ ‘Letters of eminent Persons,’ in the Bodleian Library, vol. ii. p. 17. ¹⁸ Page xxvii. et seq.

most vindictive destruction of the weaker party. In these unnatural contests the men of Lowestoft were most frequently successful, in consequence of the assistance they received from the Royal vessels, and from the skill and intrepidity of Captain Allin.

During the years 1643 and 1644, a considerable number of the Yarmouth ships were captured and destroyed. The King's cause, however, continuing to decline, notwithstanding the devotion of his party, an event, brought about by stress of weather, completed the destruction of his naval superiority on the eastern coasts. The Queen had dispatched a vessel from Holland, laden with ammunition, stores, and troops, for the service of her Royal consort. Having sprung a leak at sea, her commander was compelled to put into Yarmouth Harbour, where she was seized by the burgesses, who forthwith equipped her as a man-of-war, ostensibly on the part of Parliament, but in reality to make reprisals on their opponents at Lowestoft. The success of this vessel was, for a time, irresistible: among many prizes, she captured a pink, which was in part the property of Captain Allin, who immediately determined, with the assistance of the Lowestoft gentlemen, to retaliate fully on the trade of Yarmouth. For this purpose he retired beyond the sea, and fitted out a small squadron of ships, with which he returned; and in 1644 destroyed twenty of the Yarmouth vessels then employed in the Iceland fisheries. His brief success, however, was completely crushed by the Parliament, which in the following year sent three ships of war to protect the fishermen, and disperse the hostile squadron; which service they performed, and made prizes of a few barks manned by the men of Lowestoft. In consequence of the inferiority of his force, Captain Allin was compelled to retire to Flanders, whence he addressed a letter to the bailiffs of Yarmouth, enjoining them, under the penalty of severe retaliation, to treat their prisoners well, and set them at liberty. On Sunday, the 13th of January, 1648, this spirited commander sailed boldly into Yarmouth Roads, in order to put his threats into force by burning the town, and destroying the ships in the harbour. He did not, however, carry his purposes into effect, which he probably found too great to achieve. The deposition of the King, and the consequent establishment of the Parliamentary power, put an end to this petty and acrimonious warfare. While the seamen of Lowestoft were thus actively engaged with their opponents of Yarmouth, the inhabitants of the town were evincing a spirit on shore, equally loyal and ineffectual. A few cavaliers having endeavoured to secure the county of Suffolk for the King, Cromwell surprised them at Lowestoft on the 14th of March, 1643, the day before that on which a larger party was to have reinforced them. These gallant gentlemen, however, determined on resistance, when informed of Cromwell's approach. Two pieces of ordnance were planted at the south end of the town, and two at the head of a small street called Rants' Score. But Mr. Thomas Mighells, a merchant of the place, seeing the utter hopelessness of any attempt to

hold out so defenceless a position, and urging on the inhabitants the extreme rashness of the design, as well as the injury the town must necessarily sustain from an unsuccessful opposition, prevailed on the townsmen to relinquish their design.

In consequence of this prudent advice, Cromwell entered the place without opposition, and fixed his quarters at the Swan Inn; a house which has since fallen into decay. It was, however, at that period the principal inn of the town, and stood on the east side of the High Street, near the Swan Score.¹⁹ Here the Protector, then only Colonel Cromwell, enacted a scene of his usual duplicity. Sending for Sir John Pettus, he interrogated him sharply respecting the design of his partisans, requesting that he would inform him to which party he intended to attach himself during the national disputes. Sir John frankly declared his adherence to that of the King. Cromwell, without permitting the least show of resentment to escape him, highly applauded the knight's frankness and sincerity, and dismissed him with the assurance, that he sincerely wished every other man in the kingdom would be as open and honest in declaring his real sentiments and intentions.²⁰

Cromwell, however, made prisoner of Pettus, and carried him off to Cambridge Castle, together with Sir Edward Barker, and his brother, Mr. Knight of Ashwelthorpe, Mr. Catline, Captain Hammond, Mr. Thomas Cory, Mr. Thomas Allin, and others.²¹ The Rev. Jacob Rous, then Vicar of the parish, shared the fate of these cavaliers, and was likewise consigned to imprisonment.²² He has recorded this event in the registers of the parish, and added, under the date of June the 7th, 1646, that for some time following his capture, "there was neither minister nor clerk in this town; but the inhabitants were obliged to procure one another to baptize their children; by which means there was no register kept; only a few were by myself baptized in those intervals when I enjoyed my freedom."²³ Cromwell, who had entered the town with a brigade of horse, and a party of foot soldiers from Yarmouth, narrowly escaped capture from a counter-plot of the loyalists, the object of which was to expel the troops of the Parliament, and seize the person of their leader. The design was discovered by a party of volunteers under the command of Serjeant-Major Sherwood, who secretly sent to Norwich for a band of one hundred soldiers, who were promptly followed by a reinforcement to the same amount. Twenty pounds were paid to Sherwood and his men, by the city of Norwich, for their services at Lowestoft on this occasion.²⁴ Cromwell possessed himself of all the ammunition, arms, and cannon, the town contained, and which he carried from Lowestoft with him. The tradesmen, also, suffered the greatest injuries by the rapacity of the soldiery, who plundered them of their stock in trade, as far as they were useful to the army, and made no recom-

¹⁹ Gillingwater.²⁰ Idem.²¹ Parish Registers.²² Idem.²³ Idem.²⁴ Blomefield.

pense whatever. William Frary, a blacksmith of the town, was completely stripped of all his goods, and obliged to keep his horse in the parlour of his house, to prevent its being seized by the soldiers.²⁵

Thus distressed by the miseries of civil dissension, and unfortunate alike by sea and land, the town had yet to undergo the additional horrors and destruction of fire. Several of these awful calamities are on record.

In the year 1606, the vicarage-house, which stood upon a piece of glebe land near the south-west corner of the church, was burnt to the ground, and never rebuilt. With it were consumed the oldest register book, and many ancient records belonging to the town. On the 10th of March, 1644, an awful conflagration destroyed houses, goods, and merchandize to the extent of £10,297. 2s. 4d. According to a survey made by a committee appointed to investigate each man's particular loss, and given in on the 25th of April, it appears that fifty of the inhabitants were involved in this distress. The most considerable sufferer was Mr. Thomas Webb, whose loss amounted to £1071. 3s. On Sunday the 14th of August, 1670, a fire again consumed six dwelling-houses, and two barns filled with corn, which loss amounted to £350.²⁶ On the 12th of November, 1717, about four o'clock in the morning, this devouring element once more broke out in a sudden and terrible manner, in the fish-houses belonging to the heirs of Captain Josiah Mighells. The Rev. J. Tanner, who was then Vicar of Lowestoft, has recorded the event. "The wind blew pretty fresh at south-east, so that the sparks flew over the town, and once actually fired the thatch of a house in the Swan Lane: but men and water being ready for that purpose, it was immediately stopped, and it pleasing God of his mercy, both to damp the wind, and to bring it more to the southward, the town escaped as a brand plucked out of the fire; for which I hope we shall ever be thankful." The damage sustained at this conflagration was estimated at £1000. On Sunday, July 30th, 1780, at one o'clock in the morning, a mill at the north end of the town, from some cause unknown, took fire, and the flames being carried by a strong wind to another mill at no great distance, both were totally consumed.²⁷

In 1663, Lowestoft was disgraced by its share in the persecution of "the threescore witches" who were hanged in Suffolk. In that year, Mr. Samuel Pacey commenced a prosecution against Rose Cullender and Amy Duny, two poor old widows, for witchcraft, practised, as it was said, on his two daughters; children, respectively of the ages of eleven and nine years. After being placed in the stocks, and suffering other indignities, they were formally indicted at the Lent Assizes, held at Bury, on the 10th of March, 1664, before Sir Matthew Hale, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, for bewitching,

²⁵ Gillingwater.

²⁶ Idem.

²⁷ Idem.

amongst others, the aforesaid children. Being arraigned, they pleaded not guilty; but after a long course of the most absurd evidence, the poor creatures were found guilty of death, and suffered accordingly on Monday, the 17th of March, following. It appears that the good sense of many persons present rejected the evidence, and they would very probably have been acquitted, had not the *learned* opinion of a Dr. Brown, a physician of Norwich, who was desired by the Court to give his sentiments concerning the prisoners, turned the scale against them. The Doctor stated, "that he was clearly of opinion that the two girls were really bewitched; for that in Denmark there had been lately a great discovery of witches, and from some books that had been published in that kingdom, it appears that the witches there had used the same methods of afflicting persons as had been practised by the prisoners."

On the 7th of June, 1698, in consequence of the weakness and decay of the town-hall, a collection of money was made to repair, or rebuild the same.²⁸ The corn-cross, the town-chamber over it, and the adjoining chapel, were erected in consequence.²⁹ About the year 1726, the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, which had been previously held at Beccles, were now held alternately at that town and Lowestoft; but after a few years were held again wholly at Beccles. A large dwelling-house belonging to Sir Thomas Allin, on the western side of the Swan Lane, was converted, for this purpose, into a Shire-house. In 1756, Hewling Luson, Esq., of Gunton Hall, established a china manufactory there, as has been noticed under the account of that village. In consequence of its failure, the scheme was revived, during the following year, at Lowestoft, by a company who purchased some houses on the south side of Bell Lane, and converted them into a manufactory. The business laboured for a time under the same disadvantages as were experienced by Mr. Luson, but after a time seemed established upon a permanent foundation. It has, however, been for some years discontinued.

On the 14th of January, 1736, King George II. landed at Lowestoft on his return from the Continent, whence he proceeded, after about two hours, to London. The particulars of this visit have been related at page xxx. of the first volume of this work.

On the 30th of November, 1767, a town meeting was held to commence a subscription to raise a sum of money to purchase wheat, "now the price of provisions is so very high," and to sell it out at 4s. 6d. per bushel to the distressed inhabitants of the parish. The sum of £134. 18s. 6d. was raised; the largest benefactors being J. Barker, Esq., of London, who subscribed £20.; Aldous Arnold, Esq., £10. 10s.;

²⁸ Town Records.

²⁹ Gillingwater.

Mr. Barker, £ 7. 7s.; J. Arrow, the Vicar, £ 5. 5s.; and R. Reeve, attorney and merchant, £ 5. 5s.³⁰

On the 20th of October, 1772, the lord of the manor granted a certain piece of waste land, lately known by the name of Watering, to the churchwardens for the sole benefit of the poor inhabitants of Lowestoft, and the churchwardens were empowered by certain of the townsmen, who had full and ample authority for so doing, to enclose the same. The proceeding, however, gave offence to certain of the inhabitants, who, on the 6th of January, 1775, "being ill-advised and improvident, did maliciously and wantonly pull down and destroy the banks and fences." The offending parties, having afterwards declared their sorrow for committing the said ravages, were spared the penalties of a legal prosecution, on the following conditions. "To acknowledge their fault under their hands: to repair the bank *with colours flying*, at their own expense. To pay the tenant five guineas for damages; and to give security against repeating the like by a bond of £ 50. The fine, however, in consideration of the poverty of their respective families, was generously given up, by Mr. Aldred, the tenant of the land."³¹

The principal commerce of Lowestoft arises from its extensive fisheries. The number of boats employed in this trade was, from the year 1772 to 1781, about 33; and the quantity of herrings caught in each of those years, averaged 714 lasts, of 10,000 to a last; which makes the quantity caught during that period to be 7140 lasts. These herrings were sold, upon an average, at £ 12. 10s. per last, making a total of £ 89,250. In 1790, the value of the fish taken by twenty-four boats was £ 2475. 19s. 3½d., or £ 103. 3s. 3½d. per boat.³² It has been calculated that the extent of nets, cast by the Lowestoft and Yarmouth boats, is not less than 200 miles in length, in a direct line; and that for every draught of fish, the men, whose duty it is to haul in the nets by means of a capstan, walk a rotatory distance of not less than thirteen miles. The success of the fisheries in 1821 was unparalleled. The value of the catch of sixteen boats from Lowestoft, on the 30th of June, amounted to £ 5252. 15s. 1¼d., being an average of £ 328. 5s. 11¼d. for each boat; and it is supposed that there was no less a sum than £ 14,000 altogether realized by the owners and men concerned in the fisheries off the Suffolk coast.³³ Thomas Nash, a satirist, and imitator of Tom Coryat, who was born in this town about the end of the sixteenth century, published a witty production in praise of red herrings, which was printed in London in 1599. In 1844, sixty-five vessels belonging to Lowestoft were employed in the fisheries, but the owners complain that the herrings are not so numerous as they formerly were.³⁴

³⁰ MSS. pen. Vic.

³¹ Town Minutes.

³² Gillingwater.

³³ Druery.

³⁴ Vol. i. of this Work, Introduct. p. xii.

A herring, in length $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in breadth, was caught by John Ferret, of the *Daniel and Mary* fishing-boat of Lowestoft, in 1797.³⁵

Lady Smith has in her house at Lowestoft five full-length portraits, three of which are by Michael Mireveldt, and represent illustrious princes of the House of Orange. 1. William I., Prince of Orange, killed at Delft, the founder of the Orange family. 2. Maurice, Prince of Orange. 3. Frederick Henry, Prince of Orange, father of William II., and grandfather of William III., King of England. These pictures came into the possession of Lady Smith from a house in Saxmundham, belonging to Mrs. Clarke, formerly Miss Pleasance Hunt, her grandmother, in whose family they had been about a century.

The town has been defended by batteries, constructed on the usual fort plan, for about a century. During the last war, three were erected and mounted with ordnance carrying eighteen and thirty-two pound shot. The south battery contains rather more than half an acre, and is leased to Government for 99 years, from Michaelmas, 1781, at a rent of forty-five shillings per annum.

The High Light-house is situated on the summit of the cliff, near the north end of the town, and was erected in 1676 by the Brethren of the Trinity House, and subsequently repaired and improved in the years 1778, 1825, and 1840.

By keeping its light *on*, or in line with, that of the lower Light-house on the beach, vessels are brought in or carried out of Lowestoft roads through a narrow channel, not more than a quarter of a mile wide, which lies between two dangerous sand-banks.

The town is well built, and consists principally of a street nearly a mile in length, which occupies the southern slope of the cliff upon which it is erected.



³⁵ MSS. Robt. Reeve, Esq.

TOWN TOKENS.

Obverse.—ROBERT BETTS OF

Reverse.—LOWESTUFE. 1655.

B

R. G.

Obverse.—JOHN SMITH OF

Reverse.—LOWESTUFE. 1656.

I. S.

Obverse.—THOMAS PASE. 1659.

Reverse.—IN LOEST E.

P

T M

Obverse.—JOS. SMITHSON. ROB. BARKER, CHURCH-WARD:

Reverse.—VILLA LOWISTOFF. 1669.

Obverse.—VILLA LOWISTOFF.

Reverse.—A LOWESTOF FARTHING.

Tokens were also struck in 1795: the legend, "Success to the Fisheries." A penny was likewise issued in 1811:

Obverse.—ONE PENNY TOKEN. NON SIBI SED PATRIÆ. PAYABLE AT T. CHASTON'S, LOWESTOFT.

Reverse.—Britannia seated, with an anchor, as on the coin of the realm. SUCCESS TO THE LOWESTOFT FISHERIES. 1811.

VICARAGE-HOUSE.

There being no parsonage-house at Lowestoft, in consequence of the fire in 1606, the Rev. John Tanner, who died in 1759, left by his will £100 towards purchasing a residence for that purpose; on condition, however, that his successor advanced another £100, and the purchase was made within a limited time. But Mr. Arrow, who succeeded Mr. Tanner, not complying with the terms of the will, the legacy became void; and Mr. Arrow, in 1762, purchased a very handsome and commodious house on his own account, towards the north end of the town, on the east side, in which he resided during the residue of his life. Mr. Arrow died in 1789, and was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Potter, upon whose institution, Dr. Bagot, the then Bishop of Norwich, and patron of this vicarage, revived the idea of purchasing a parsonage-house; and Mr. Potter and the inhabitants approving the measure, and Mr. Arrow's house, then on sale, being thought a proper residence for the vicar, it was accordingly purchased for the purpose, in 1789, for the sum of £550. To accomplish the purchase, the trustees of certain charity lands in Lowestoft, the rents whereof are applicable for matters apper-

taining to the church, advanced £100 ; Dr. Bagot was pleased to give £20 ; and £430, the residue, was borrowed by the vicar, under the authority of the Act of Parliament to enable rectors and vicars to build or purchase parsonage-houses in those parishes where there are none. It was also thought desirable, that a garden, the property of the late Mr. Arrow, and not far distant from the house, should be purchased ; the purchase-money for which was £120, but included in the £550 given. The deeds of conveyance executed on this occasion are in the possession of the vicar.

In 1831, the Rev. F. Cunningham purchased part of a garden and right of way, which cost £77. 7s. 3d., which he presented to the vicarage, and likewise put the vicarage-house into a thorough state of repair.

THE HARBOUR.

The River Waveney in ancient days sought its junction with the Ocean through Lake Lothing, between Lowestoft and Kirkley. Its channel, which is proved to have been shallow, by the discovery of fossil elephants' teeth, as already related, was open in Camden's time, who calls Kirkley a haven town. Reyce, who wrote his account of Suffolk a few years after, describes it as still navigable, for he says, "and then Ley-stoffe, untill you come to that part of Yarmouth which is on the south side of the river Hiere, do finish the number of our havens."³⁶ The sea, however, aided by the fury of the eastern gales, gradually raised a barrier of sand and shingle about a quarter of a mile wide, by which all navigation was finally interrupted. Still, whenever a violent storm arose from the north-west in conjunction with a spring tide, the sea would flow into Lake Lothing with great rapidity, and threaten the adjacent low grounds with inundation. To guard against these irruptions, and prevent the consequent damages, a break-water was formed on the sandy isthmus, between Lowestoft and Kirkley, as a security for the marshes which lay contiguous to the river. It is not, however, apparent when this embankment was first completed ; for, in a Commission of Sewers, held in February, 1652, a levy was made to repair the breaches effected by the ocean in this bank or wall. These operations must have been imperfectly conducted, for even so late as 1712, a shallow channel was still maintained between the sea and Lake Lothing ; for it was then customary for a man to stand there with boots on, to carry children through the water, who went from Lowestoft to Pakefield fair.³⁷ Subsequently, the barrier was so greatly strengthened, that all apprehension of damage from the ocean had vanished, when, on the 14th of December, 1717, the sea forced its

³⁶ Breviary, Harl. MSS.

³⁷ Gillingwater.

way over the beach with such irresistible violence, as to carry away Mutford bridge at the distance of two miles from the shore. The writer has been led to assert, in his introduction to the Hundred of Lothingland,³⁸ from false information, that this was the last attempt of the ocean to regain its ancient passage to the lake. Such, however, is not the fact, for on the 2nd of February, 1791, a remarkably high tide once more burst over the isthmus of sand, and again carried away the bridge at Mutford, built in 1760. On this occasion the salt water flowed over every surrounding barrier, and forced the fishes into the adjoining fields, where they were found, weeks afterwards, sticking in the hedges.³⁹

In 1814, Mr. Cubitt, a county engineer, was employed to make a survey, "with a view of ascertaining whether or not it was practicable to open a communication with the sea at Lowestoft," so as to enable vessels, drawing eight feet water, to pass into the lake, and thence by a navigable canal, to Norwich. In 1821, he published his Report, strongly recommending the plan, but estimating the cost at £87,000. After much opposition from the inhabitants of Yarmouth, and the gentlemen whose property lay adjacent to the line of the proposed navigation, a Bill was carried through both Houses of Parliament for making Lake Lothing navigable for sea-borne vessels by a new cut, connecting that lake with the ocean, from Lowestoft to Norwich. The Bill received the Royal Assent, May the 28th, 1827, and the works were commenced in the same year. Though not finally completed to Norwich till September 30th, 1833, they were sufficiently advanced for the admission of the sea, and the reception of shipping, in 1831. On Friday, the 3rd of June, in that year, the engineer having made the necessary arrangements for the purpose of bringing vessels into the harbour, the *Ruby*, a beautiful yacht of fifty-one tons burden, and drawing nine feet water, belonging to the writer, entered the lake from the sea under full sail, with her colours flying; and having on board the Chairman, Colonel Harvey, and other Directors. She was followed by the *Georgiana* yacht, of forty-eight tons, belonging to John Fowler, Esq., of Gunton Hall, and by several pleasure-boats and vessels of a smaller class. Some of the circumstances attending the junction of the salt and fresh waters, in the first instance, were remarkable. The salt water entered the lake with a strong under-current, the fresh water running out at the same time to the sea upon the surface. The fresh water of the lake was raised to the top by the irruption of the salt water beneath, and an immense quantity of yeast-like scum rose to the surface. The entire body of the water in the lake was elevated above its former level; and on putting a pole down, a strong under-current could be felt, bearing it from

³⁸ Vol. i. p. 291.

³⁹ MSS. Robert Reeve, Esq.

the sea, and at a short distance from the lock next the lake there was a perceptible and clearly defined line where the salt water and the fresh met; the former rushing under the latter; and upon this line salt water might have been taken up in one hand, and fresh water in the other. Lake Lothing was thickly studded with the bodies of pike, carp, perch, bream, roach, and dace; multitudes of which were carried into the ocean, and thrown afterwards upon the beach; most of them having been bitten in two by the dog-fish, which abound in the bay. It is a singular fact, that a pike of about twenty pounds weight was taken up dead near the Mutford end of the lake, and on opening the stomach, a herring was found in it entire. The waters of the lake exhibited the phosphorescent light peculiar to sea water, on the second or third night after the opening.⁴⁰ This harbour and navigation afterwards fell into the hands of Government, and were purchased of the Exchequer Loan Commissioners in 1842, by Messrs. Cleveland, Everitt, Lincoln, Hickling, and Roe, of Lowestoft; who expended a considerable sum in repairs. They continued in their possession until October, 1844, when they were sold to S. M. Peto, Esq. The present Act, entitled "An Act for Making a Railway from Lowestoft to Reedham, and for Improving the Harbour at Lowestoft," was obtained in 1845; and the works commenced in the spring of 1846. The plan is to form a basin outside, or seaward, of the old lock, and entrance, by means of piers, consisting of a frame-work of timber piling—the timber being creasoted by Bethel's patent process to keep out the worm. The frame-work will be filled in with large blocks of stone, varying in weight from one to six tons each block, brought from Kent and Yorkshire. The piers will be about 1300 feet in length, 800 feet apart, and the entrance 160 feet wide. The basin, so formed, will enclose twenty acres, and the depth of water will average at the top of the tides twenty-four feet. The piers will be finished, and the harbour available for every description of vessel navigating the coast, at all times of tide, in June next. In addition to the formation of the outer basin or refuge harbour, the inner harbour has been dredged; and wharfs, three quarters of a mile in length, are in the course of construction: eighty coke-ovens have been erected, and upwards of thirty acres of land levelled for the erection of store-houses, &c. Parallel with the wharfing, a sea-wall, upwards of a quarter of a mile in length, is being built on the south side of the harbour, as a protection to the works; and an esplanade, a large hotel, and lodging-houses, will be erected as soon as the season permits.⁴¹ An Act to enable the trustees of certain charity and trust estates at and near Lowestoft, to carry into effect a contract for the sale of parts thereof to the Lowestoft Railway and Harbour Company, and to grant leases for long terms of years, for building purposes, received the Royal Assent on the 13th of August, 1846.

⁴⁰ Norfolk Chronicle.

⁴¹ Ex inform. Mr. James Hodges,

THE FISHERIES.

The disputes between the town of Lowestoft and the borough of Great Yarmouth were frequent formerly, and continued as long as the men of Yarmouth coveted the whole herring trade, and supported their claim by false construction of charters, and wilful misrepresentations of ancient times and deeds. But the animosity between the two towns has now fully subsided, the men of Yarmouth having given up these unjust claims many years.

The general claim of the men of Yarmouth was, "That no herrings should be sold and bought, by way of merchandize, at any town or place upon the coasts of the sea, roads or shore of the same, within the compass of fourteen lukes, about the said town of Yarmouth: that is to say, between Winterton Ness, in Norfolk, and Easton Ness, in Suffolk; nor within seven lukes from all and singular the shores of the same, during the time of the fair of herrings, yearly kept, at Yarmouth, for forty days from St. Michael to St. Martin. But only at the town and haven of the same. And that they are to have the punishing of all forestalling within the said compass. And further, they claim that no ship, nor any boat, shall charge or discharge at any town or place, within the compass of seven lukes, about the said town. But only at the said town, or in the haven of the same, or else in Kirkley Road, upon pain of forfeiture of ship and goods." The reasons given by them, and the answers by the men of Lowestoft, are as follow:

First, they say, that in the time of King Edward III. the statute of Herrings (thirty-first Edward III.) was made purposely for the enlargement of the liberties of Yarmouth, and for the government of the fair, there holden; by which statute it is provided, that no more herrings be discharged in the road of Kirkley, out of fishers' ships, but for the charge of the pickers, coming thither for the same cause. And that the fishers be compelled to bring all the remnant of herring to the fair of Yarmouth, to sell there. So that none hang, or sell, herring in any place about the said haven by seven miles,—so yearly proclaimed at Yarmouth,—except at the three towns of Yarmouth: that is to say, Easton, Weston, Southton; unless it be herring of their own fishing.

Answer. The men of Lowestoft say, that the aforesaid statute was made purposely against the forestalling and other abuses of the hosts of Yarmouth, and not for the enlargement of the liberties of Yarmouth, but for the better government of the fair, as by the preamble doth appear. And for further answer it is to be noted, that the words aforesaid, "that no more herrings, &c.," are but a part of the sentence going before, and do depend upon the same; which sentence provideth that the pickers shall freely buy fresh herring, and other, in Kirkley and elsewhere upon the said coasts,

without the impeach of the hostlers of Yarmouth, or any other ; and then followeth the rest of the sentence, so always that, &c.

Answer to the general claim, with reasons why the liberties claimed should be confined within a compass of seven miles ; eight furlongs to a mile, and no more. For that, notwithstanding the aforesaid liberties claimed, all fishermen of the realm, resorting to the coasts of Suffolk and Norfolk to fish for herrings, have used, from age to age, time out of mind, as well in the time of the fair of herrings in Yarmouth, as at all other times of the year of herring fishing, to utter and sell their herrings for their best advantage, as wind and weather would permit them, in divers places upon the coast of the sea, and shores of the same ; as namely, Winterton Road, and chiefly in the roads before Lowestoft in Suffolk, called and known by the name or names of Lowestoft North Road, and Lowestoft South Road ; all which places are above seven miles from Yarmouth, where the fair of herrings has been usually kept ; and within the new liberties now claimed by Yarmouth, from ness to ness. And likewise, the commonalty of the realm have, from time to time, resorted to the aforesaid places with horses, carts, and other carriages, to buy herrings there, for serving of the inland counties, and there have used to buy great numbers of herrings, bountifully and at reasonable prices. And likewise thousands of lasts of herrings have been used to be hanged and dried for red herrings at Lowestoft, and the said trade of merchandizing herrings at Lowestoft, in no age utterly suppressed.

And likewise the commonalty of the realm, and also many strangers, have used, from age to age, time out of mind, to load and unload all boats, and other vessels, coming into the roads before Lowestoft, to and from the said town, at all times of the year, as occasion have served, without paying any toll or custom, for so loading and unloading of such ships, boats, or other vessels, unto the corporation of Yarmouth. All which have been found and approved of to be profitable for the king and realm, as by letters patent, and other matters of record—the copies whereof, taken out of the Tower, are ready to be shown—and also to prove the continuance of the aforesaid trades may appear letters patent, 31 Edward III. : letters patent of a concord, 32 Edward III. : a private act, 50 Edward III. : a bill in Parliament, 4 Richard II., approved of by two inquisitions, with a bill in Parliament, 5 Richard II. : letters patent, 9 Richard II. : letters patent of a concord, 2 Henry IV.

But of late, the said trades of buying and selling of herrings, and loading and unloading of ships, have been much impeached, and greatly diminished by colour of the aforesaid claim, and hard dealings and oppressions of Yarmouth men : for when many ships have been voluntarily anchored in the said roads, before the town of Lowestoft, above seven miles from Yarmouth, they have not only moved, and persuaded many fishermen to forbear to sell and deliver their herrings in the said road, offering to them

greater prices for their herrings to be delivered at Yarmouth, than they should have in the said roads; but also they have with strong hand violently compelled many fishermen being anchored, as aforesaid, to weigh their anchors, and sail with their herrings into the haven or road of Yarmouth, and there to sell unto their hosts only. And other fishers that have sold their herrings in the said roads before Lowestoft, when they have come to Yarmouth, there they have seized the fishers' ships and goods, and imprisoned the men for selling to any other than to the hosts of Yarmouth, within their, pretended, liberties, to the great hurt of all fishermen, and those in trade with them, and to the general hurt of the commonalty of the realm, for that the men of Yarmouth do not contain themselves within their due bounds, and therefore just cause why their liberties should be confined.

To the clause, that no more herrings be discharged in the road of Kirkley out of the fishers' ships, but for the charge of the pickers, coming thither for the same cause; and that the fishers be compelled to bring all the remnant of their herrings to the fair of Yarmouth to sell there, so that none hang herrings in any place about the said haven, within seven miles, &c.

They answer, that the letter, nor meaning of this law, doth not forbid the buying or selling, charging or discharging of herrings, but only such as buy to hang within seven miles about the said town, and buy of such as are coming toward the said fair, being within seven miles about the said haven. And for that Yarmouth men, having the government, do not only claim, as aforesaid, but also punish all such as buy or sell upon the said coasts within their pretended liberties, but only to the hosts of the said town. And besides, that the aforesaid branch was never in use, for that the said king determined otherwise in the same thirty-first year, and also in the thirty-second year of his reign, and ordered in both years, for the continuance of the trade of hanging of herrings at Lowestoft, and therefore most fit that their liberties should be confined within the compass of seven miles; eight furlongs to every mile.

Again the Yarmouth men say, that King Edward III., in the forty-sixth year, by his letters patent, did grant and unite unto the town and haven of Yarmouth, Kirkley Road, even as it was first found to lay and be, by two inquisitions, &c., prohibiting the charging and discharging of ships and boats at any town or place distant from Yarmouth, within seven miles or lukes, about the said town, but only at the said town, or else in Kirkley Road, aforesaid. And also prohibiting all buying and selling of herring by way of merchandize, &c., at any town or place, distant from Yarmouth within seven miles or lukes about the said town, during the time of the herring fishery, and free fair of herrings, yearly kept at Great Yarmouth, but only at the said town of Great Yarmouth, or in the haven of the said town, upon pain of forfeiture of ships and goods, to the use

of the king, &c., to be accounted for in the Exchequer. All which liberties were granted unto the said town, in the tenth year of King Richard II.

The Lowestoft men answer, that the road, called Kirkley Road, granted and united unto Yarmouth, must and ought, to be taken to lay and be in such place or part of the sea, as it was at first found, even by the two inquisitions, whereon the charter was grounded, and in no other place.

The copy of the king's *ad quod damnum*, and the said two inquisitions, agree with no other place, but only a place at the mouth of the said haven, and nothing distant, and where the ships that cannot enter the haven for their greatness, must first discharge in the said place, which place is only to be found at the mouth extending towards the north of the mouth of the said haven, wheresoever the same did run out into the sea. For that neither ebb nor flood will so fit to charge or discharge ships to and from Yarmouth towards the south of the said haven, as both do towards the north. And that use and possession on the part of Yarmouth, prove it to be so; for that towards the north of the mouth of the said haven they have, and have had, and enjoyed all those things they sought for at the king's hand, and he granted: but at this time there is no place upon the coast properly called or known by the name of Kirkley Road; nor in the memory of man has been, and, therefore, a most unnecessary question now, to spend time to know where the said place should be.

Again the men of Yarmouth say, that all buying and selling of herrings, by way of merchandize, is prohibited by the aforesaid grant at any town or place within seven miles, *i. e.* lukes, about the said town, during the time of the herring fishery, and free fair of herrings, yearly kept at Great Yarmouth; but only at the town of Great Yarmouth, or in the haven of the said town, upon pain of forfeiture of ships and goods. And further they say, that the word lukes, or leucas, which is translated miles, means leagues, or sea miles, every one of which is equal to three land miles, or at least a mile and a half; and therefore, their liberties extend as far as seven leucas will reach. And further they say, that the commencement of the measure of the said lukes ought to begin at the mouth of the said haven.

The men of Lowestoft answer, that they acknowledge that there is such a prohibition, with the penalty abovesaid; and forasmuch as the penalty is so great, therefore just cause that the bounds should be certainly known and limited. And as touching the meaning of the word leucas, translated miles, that is, what length of measure a leuca shall comprehend, it hath been determined the word leucas, or miles, which is in the statute thirty-first Edward III. and tenth Richard II., is the same in the originals with the word leucas, or miles, in the statute made in the thirteenth Richard II., chap. 3, concerning the steward and marshal of the king's house. The which word leucas, which we translate miles, stands adjudged, and is taken to be in the king's case but eight

furlongs to every mile or leuca, and no more. And touching where the measure should begin, it is to be noted, that all public sale within the compass of seven miles is drawn from the mouth of the haven, two miles up to the town, and there, betwixt the south gate and bridge, and most chiefly about the Crane's Quay. And therefore by the said word leucas is to be taken or understood land miles, which are eight furlongs to every mile, and no more.

And likewise the measure of the said miles ought to be taken to begin at the said place where the Crane Quay is; as has been formerly certified by Sir John Fortescue, Knt., and two counsel, the 16th May, 1596. Thus, all the aforesaid liberties are to be confined within the compass of the aforesaid seven miles. The which have been duly measured the directest way southward from the Crane Quay, towards the roads where the fishers used to anchor for the sale of their herrings. And at the end of the miles so measured, an apparent mark was fixed, 1597, and still standeth as a manifest mark how far the bounds of Yarmouth extend southward; and no judicial exceptions or course taken by the men of Yarmouth to reform the same, if any thing had been done amiss therein. And therefore their bounds aforesaid ought to extend no further.

Again they say, that by the said letters patent, all the liberties before granted unto the inhabitants of Lowestoft are revoked.

To which the men of Lowestoft answer, that the said revocation no way abridgeth the general liberties and benefits of his Highness's subjects, inhabitants of Lowestoft, nor none other.

The men of Yarmouth say further, that our sovereign lord the King's Majesty that now is, has not only confirmed all the former liberties, but also by his Highness's letters patent, dated the 26th July, in the sixth of his reign, did further grant unto the bailiffs, &c., for the better enjoying of their ancient liberties, and enlargement of the same, and for the maintenance of their town, all admiral jurisdiction without controlment: and the punishing of all regratting and forestalling in all places upon the sea betwixt Winterton Ness, in Norfolk, and Easton Ness, in Suffolk, in length fourteen lucas or miles, and seven lucas or miles from all and singular shores of the same. And to have, and take all amercements, pains, penalties, and forfeitures of all persons of what quality soever, &c., to the use of their corporation, without giving any account for the same, &c. And they say, these are the liberties, circuits, and bounds of the town of Great Yarmouth, within which compass, none ought to sell or buy herrings, by way of merchandize, during the time of the herring fishing, and the free fair of herrings, yearly kept at Great Yarmouth, but only at the said town, and that only on the east side of the haven, above the boom, or south gate, upon pain of forfeiture of ship and goods.

The men of Lowestoft answer, that as to the new liberties, they were granted without the King's writ *ad quod damnum*, upon information that it was fourteen leucas or miles from ness to ness, when, in truth, it is in length from one ness to the other above twenty-four miles, and is two miles further northward than they formerly had, and eight miles further southward from Yarmouth, than by their ancient grants they had to restrain charging and discharging ships and boats, or buying and selling. And although they have authority from ness to ness, to punish forestalling, &c., yet they have now no larger liberties to restrain loading or unloading of ships, or buying or selling, than formerly they had. So that in truth, it is now as free for his Majesty's subjects to buy and sell, charge or discharge, &c., in all places above seven miles from Yarmouth, as it was before the granting of the said new liberties.

And now upon the whole, for that it is manifest and apparent, that wheresoever Yarmouth men have had any government or colour thereof, there they have always sought, and still seek, to suppress all free buying and selling, especially herrings, but only unto a few free-men in the town, hosted with the fishermen and bailiffs for the time; and therefore most fit, that all their liberties should be confined within the compass of the aforesaid seven miles; eight furlongs to every mile, and no more.⁴²

The progress and arrangements of this dissension are detailed at great length in Swindon's and Gillingwater's histories. In 1597, it was finally ordered by Act of Parliament, that the admeasurement for determining the extent of the Yarmouth liberties in Kirkley Roads should take place, and begin at the Crane Quay, in Yarmouth, and proceed, in a direct manner, towards the roading-place near the sea shore, where the fishermen usually anchor to make sale of their herrings; and at the end of the seven leucas or miles, a post should be set up to determine, in future, the exact extent of the liberties of Yarmouth.

Notwithstanding this arrangement, in 1659 the dispute was renewed by the burgesses, who pursued the same course they had previously taken, by insisting that the admeasurement was to begin at the mouth of their haven, instead of the Crane Quay, and consequently, that the limits of their jurisdiction extended to the south of the town of Lowestoft. The renewal of the contest at this particular time was peculiarly unfortunate for the Lowestoft men, who were overwhelmed with misfortunes; their goods having been plundered by the parliamentary troops, and their town almost totally consumed by fire. In this distressful situation their only resource was to present their complaints once more to the Lords of the Privy Council, before whom,

⁴² Town Records.

and the other legal authorities, the dispute was sharply contested, during the space of four years, until 1663. It was superintended, on the part of Lowestoft, by three spirited individuals, Mr. James Wilde, Mr. Samuel Pacey, and Mr. Thomas Mighells, who, after many difficulties and delays, once more decided the dispute by causing the boundary mark to be removed, and compelling the Yarmouth burgesses to confine the imposition of the duties within their own limits.

In order to defray the charges of this suit, the townsmen levied, between the years 1660 and 1674, a tax upon the herring fishery, at certain rates, per last, which collectively amounted to £ 519. 3s. 3d. This sum and the levy upon brewers and coopers of £ 62. 10s. were expended in discharging all debts incurred by the town in the prosecution of this suit, which cost them in the whole nearly £ 600. The money disbursed during the progress of conducting it was chiefly borrowed of Messrs. Wilde, Pacey, and Mighells. Mr. Wilde being the principal conductor, his fellow-townsmen were so well satisfied with his exertions, that they unanimously voted, and presented to him, a silver tankard of the value of £ 10. 9s., as a mark of their esteem and approbation. The burgesses of Yarmouth unwillingly acquiesced in the decision of Parliament; and notwithstanding the late accommodation which had taken place, about the Michaelmas of 1663, which was the first herring season after the second admeasurement, they actually recommenced hostilities by seizing a Dutch and a French fishing-vessel in Lowestoft Roads, although they were clearly without their jurisdiction, under pretence of their not having paid the duties to Yarmouth, but in reality to renew their contest with Lowestoft. From the Dutchman they took a barrel of red herrings, and from the other some cooking utensils, of the value of 13s. 4d., urging that the sum claimed by them amounted to 14s. each; which goods they insisted upon retaining until the payments were made. This proceeding so intimidated the foreigners, that few or none could be prevailed upon to anchor or deliver there, to the great prejudice of the interests of Lowestoft. The matter was again proceeding to a legal decision, when Dr. Lewin, then Judge of the Admiralty Court of Suffolk, interfered, and by his advice this last affair was compromised, by both parties paying their own costs; and thus it ended. From which period the Lowestoft people resolved to maintain the boundary post between the towns inviolate, which they have sedulously performed, and thus prevented any further differences breaking out.⁴³ In 1741, when this boundary post was thrown down by a strong gale of wind, it was replaced by another on the same spot, in the presence of two gentlemen from Yarmouth, who were attended by several disinterested witnesses.

“ August 12th, 1741. Whereas there was, upwards of 80 years since, a suit depending between the

⁴³ Gillingwater, Druery, &c.

town of Great Yarmouth, in the county of Norfolk, and the town of Lowestoft, in Suffolk, relating to the herring fishery, and whereas upon, or soon after, the determination thereof, a pole was erected upon or near the beach, lying at the north end of the said town, and about a mile distant thence, to prevent future disputes, which otherwise might happen between the said towns; and as a mark to ascertain and describe the limits of the said fishery, or right of fishing, or buying of fish, in respect of the said towns; which said pole, or one which had been fixed in the room thereof, being lately blown down, we, the several persons under-named, do hereby certify that we, on the day and year above-named, were severally present, and saw a new pole put and placed down as near as possible to the same place where such last pole stood.

ASHURST ALLIN, Rector of Somerleyton.

JOHN FOWLER, of Kirkley.

JOHN WATSON, of Yarmouth.

THOMAS FOWLER, of Yarmouth.

THOMAS MUNKS, of Pakefield.

JOHN FARR, of Beccles.

JOHN FARR, jun., of the same.⁴⁴

THE TITHE OF FISH.

The vicarage of Lowestoft was originally endowed with a tithe of fish, called Christ's half dole; and other tithes, and ecclesiastical dues, within the said parish, except the tithes of corn and grain.⁴⁵

Among the records in the Exchequer Office is a roll of Proceedings in the Court of First Fruits, 9th of Elizabeth, wherein it is shown, on the deposition of "Richard Michell, of Lowestofte, of thage of fifty and fyve yeares, or theare about, and Anthony Jettour, of the same town, merchaunte, of thage of fourty-three yeares and more,"—"that there was a tythe of fyshe, called Christ's dole, payde in this mannor, videl^t, of every fisher bote goinge to the sea, halfe a dole. And of every ship that sayled to Islonde, half a dole, whiche doles about twenty yeares past dyd amounte to a seven pound, or more, yearly. For then there weare thirtene or fourtene doggers belongynge to the sayde towne, and now but one."

At a petty sessions held at Lowestoft on the 12th of November, 1845, before Edward Leathes, Esq., and the Rev. E. M. Love, considerable interest was felt in a case, regarding this right, in which a fish merchant, of the name of John Roberts, had been summoned by the Rev. F. Cunningham, the vicar, for having refused or neglected to pay tithe for his fish. The information set forth that he had subtracted certain tithe of fish, payable in respect of his fishing-boat, and had neglected to pay the offerings and oblations to the vicar, according to the custom of the place. The case was entered into

⁴⁴ MSS. Robert Reeve, Esq.

⁴⁵ Tanner's MSS. pen. Vic.

at considerable length, but in consequence of a certain informality in the proceedings, the information fell to the ground. A fresh information, however, having been laid, a new summons was issued by Charles Steward, Esq., a county magistrate, dated December 3, 1845, and a meeting was accordingly held at the Queen's Head Inn, before John F. Leathes, Esq., Charles Steward, Esq., and others. The defendant having heard the charge, said, he still refused to pay the tithe. Mr. Tillett, of Norwich, appeared on behalf of the defendant. The Vicar apologized for undertaking his own case, but said, he did this for two reasons: first, to prevent any increase of excited feeling in the town upon this matter; and that it might be discussed as amicably as possible; and also, that by placing himself in opposition to a professional man, on this occasion, he might give the case the fullest chance of an impartial hearing. His object was to bring every proof before his friends and neighbours of the justice of his claims.

The Rev. John Rumpf, of Pakefield, being called, stated that on the 6th of October last, he accompanied the Rev. F. Cunningham, the complainant, and called on Mr. John Roberts the elder. Mr. Cunningham demanded of him his half dole for the mackarel voyage, for his boat *Wesley*, for the last mackarel fishery; which he refused to pay, and said he intended to dispute the payment.

William Cleveland, of Lowestoft, fish merchant, deposed that he had been engaged in the mackarel fishing without intermission thirty-seven years, on his own account, and three years in partnership: had paid the mackarel dole to the vicar yearly, when applied for; considered it like any other debt, and that he had a right to pay it. The payment was half a dole to the vicar: had heard that in consequence of the small income of the vicarage it was supposed by some to be a voluntary payment: he considered the custom as a just due, or he should not have paid it: he thought it a legal demand on him. On his cross-examination he said, that he had not often heard it asserted that it was a voluntary gift: there might be difference of opinion; but he should not think of disputing it; but supposing the share, or dole, was not paid to the clergyman, it would go to increase the division of the whole. Re-examined: Had no hesitation in saying he had always thought it a legal demand, or he should not have paid it. The half dole is a payment made by each boat going the mackarel fishing, as the tithe of fish due to the vicar. The witness explained to the magistrates the system of doling, by which it appeared that the fish caught were divided among the master, owner, and men, and that the half dole varied according to the number caught, and that unless the crew or the employers choosed to say what the catch was, the clergyman had no means of knowing.

William Jones Woods, fish curer, of Lowestoft, examined: Had been engaged in the mackarel fishing about thirty-six years: for about seven years was master of a boat, and for the rest of the period had been a fishing owner. A half dole had been paid to

the vicar for the half dole of the mackarel fishery, for tithe: had paid it as a mackarel owner twenty-seven years; and before that, when he was master, the half dole was always charged in the mackarel account and allowed, and he believed was paid: never knew to the contrary: it was a custom: he had always considered it a debt, and paid it, and placed it to account in the doling. Had heard, as a matter of conversation, that some thought it ought to be paid, and some not. Had invariably paid when there was a loss: had heard the payment disputed some years back by an individual: that was in the incumbency of Mr. Lockwood: he disputed for some time, but subsequently paid it.

Mr. George Gowing called: Was a fish merchant residing at Lowestoft: had been thirty-one years engaged in the mackarel fishing: had always paid the half dole to the vicar during that time: had he not thought it a just demand, should not have paid it: his father paid it since he could remember; might say from 1802: had occasionally paid it for his father long before he went into business himself: had heard parties say they objected to it when the voyage went bad; this had been within the last three or four years. Cannot charge his memory whether he had heard it was a voluntary payment: considered it compulsory: had never heard any persons say, many years ago, that the vicar had no right to it: had never heard it mentioned as a voluntary gift. Was churchwarden.

The Vicar then proceeded to put in other evidence:

1. The account of the receipt of the mackarel fare by his predecessor in the vicarage; to whom, and to himself, Mr. Roberts had paid the tithe up to the year 1842. But as the handwriting of the former vicar was not proved, the account was not received.

2. The evidence of vicars of Lowestoft long since dead, from their own private accounts, produced from the vicar's custody.

Mr. Tillett objected to this evidence on the ground of an opinion of Lord Hardwick's, that no person could make evidence for himself, or his representatives. But this was over-ruled by the magistrates, who considered that Lord Hardwick's opinion had no relation in the present case. A quotation was then put in by the vicar from the same learned judge, taken from Philipp's 'Law of Evidence,' 199. "Entries made by a deceased rector in his book of the receipt of ecclesiastical due, have been, in several cases, admitted as evidence for his successor, because it is said he had no interest to mistake the fact, in making an entry which could not possibly be evidence for himself."—"This, as Lord H. once said, is going a great way, but has been allowed, because the parson knows the entry cannot benefit either himself or his representative, who has nothing to do with the living, and it is not to be presumed that the parson would make false entries for his successor, who stands indifferent to him." Another

case was cited from Eagle and Young, vol. i. p. 744, Lord Arundell's case: "Books of account, memorandums, &c., of a preceding vicar, may be made use of, as evidence for his successor, to support his demand in a case of tithes."

The evidence of the Rev. J. Arrow's account books were then put in for the receipt of tythe of mackarel from 1760 to 1787. He died in 1789.

Mr. Tillett objected that there was no proof that Mr. Arrow had died. Mr. Wm. Cleveland stated that he had attended Mr. Arrow's funeral. Mr. Arrow's handwriting was proved by a comparison with the parish register. The account book was then allowed by the magistrates. The accounts of the Rev. J. Tanner for the mackarel fish, from the year 1710 to 1741, were next put in.

Mr. Tillett then made a lengthened examination of Mr. Tanner's account books and letters, when he read a letter found amongst them from T. T., beginning "Dear Johny," and which he thought showed that there was some dissatisfaction about paying the tithe in the year 1709. Mr. Cleveland stated that whatever reference was made to boats in this letter applied to the along-shore boats, on which no tithe was levied.

The accounts of the Rev. Mr. Whiston, who was Vicar of Lowestoft before he succeeded Sir Isaac Newton, at Cambridge, were then put in. They were very characteristic of that mathematician. They were from 1698 to 1700, and they proved his receipt of the mackarel tithe. The account books of the Rev. Jos. Hudson were also put in, who was vicar from 1677 to 1691. The total time which the mackarel fare has been paid by the accounts is 156 years.

Another evidence was put in by the Vicar. A copy of a decree dated Feb. 12, 1568, tenth of Queen Elizabeth, and which is "found amongst the records of First Fruits and Tenths Office, belonging to the Exchequer of Account in the Public Record Office." The decree was in Latin, except the interrogatories. Two copies of this same decree were produced, one from the Vicar's books, copied by Mr. Tanner; the other from a compilation of the materials from which Gillingwater's History was made, now in the possession of Lady Smith; and by which it appeared that Gillingwater had stated the particulars of the decree inaccurately. The Vicar read an abstract of this decree. It declared that by the evidence of a former Vicar, John Brown, the living had been worth £26. 6s. 1d. That the tithe paid to the Queen's Majesty was £10. 9s. 9d. But that Richard Mighells, an inhabitant of Lowestoft, had appealed to the Court of Exchequer, and declared that the living now, from the failure in the fishing and oblations, was very much lessened in value. A commission was sent down to Lowestoft in 1566, and the examination of Richard Mighells, aged 55 years, and of others, proved the value of the vicarage to be £9. 12s. 8d. At length the living was valued at £10. 1s. In the course of the reply to the interrogatories, Richard Mighells had sworn that there "was tythe of fysche called Christ's dole, paid in this manner: vidl^t, of

every fisher boat going to the sea, half a dole, which doles, about twenty years past, did amount unto seven pound, or more, yearly, for then there were thirteen or fourteen doggers belonging to the said town, and now but one." The Vicar stated that the birth of Mr. Mighells would be in 1511, which was over the reign of Edward VI., to the third of Henry VIII.: more than 300 years since; and that from 1566, the payment of the tythe of the half dole was a custom: for the memory of man did not then run to the contrary.

Mr. Tillett objected to this record being received in a court of law, because it had not been legally examined and attested: that it had been open to the Vicar to get it attested. The record was directed to be withdrawn. The Vicar stated that if the evidence were not legal, it was moral evidence to those who heard it; and it might be made legal evidence without much trouble. He here concluded his evidence, and expressed a hope that if his case were proved, his fellow-townsmen would judge of it fairly, and not follow up their objections in a persecuting spirit. That he had taken up the matter as a trust; for the incumbency of Lowestoft had been so conferred on him, and therefore, as a point of principle, he should not be justified in abandoning the cause which had been so committed to him.

Mr. Tillett declined calling any witnesses, but rested his objection on the wording of the "Information," which stated that the tithe was "arising in the parish of Lowestoft," but that the tithe did not arise in the parish of Lowestoft, but in the sea; also, that it had not appeared in evidence, that Mr. Roberts is an inhabitant of Lowestoft. It was agreed by the parties that the case of John Roberts, junior, should abide by the decision of that of his father.

The magistrates, in stating their decision, said that they were satisfied with the evidence of three of the most respectable fish merchants of Lowestoft, who had established the custom as having existed for forty years, and there having been no proof produced to the contrary,

The magistrates directed an order to be made for 10s. 3d. for the tithe, and 10s. costs, which were in consequence levied.

The number of doles are divided amongst the owner and men, in the following proportions. Nets, 55 doles: boat, 28: master, 16: mate, 11: hawsemen, 10: net-ropemen, 7: nets' owner, 6: one capsternman, 6: the other, 6: boy, $4\frac{1}{2}$: vicar, $\frac{1}{2}$: total 150.⁴⁶

THE CHAPELS.

There were two, if not three, chapels in this town prior to the Reformation. One

⁴⁶ MSS. Robt. Reeve, Esq.

called Good Cross Chapel was situated at the southern part of the town towards Kirkley, over against the lane, still called Chapel Lane. Its site is described in the court-book of the manor, annno 1549 :

“ Ad curiam Baron: generalem cum Leta, 4 A. R. R. Edwardi VI., Laurentius Robson admissus est ad unam parcellam terræ de vasto domini, cum domo super inde edificat. vocat., *Le Good Cross Chapel*, continend. in longitudine 60 pedes, et in latitud. 50 pedes, cujus caput occidentale abuttat super viam ducent. a Lowestoft ad Kirkley.”

This building, though most likely not used for the purposes of divine worship, appears to have been still standing in the subsequent reign of Queen Elizabeth, for in a valuation of the vicarge, then made, it is said, “ that there was a certain oblation, or offeringe to the Holy Crosse, then so called, within a chapel at the south end of the towne of Lowistofte, which was worthe, at the leste, to the vicar, eight or nyne pounds, yearley, and now nothing.” The spot on which this chapel stood is supposed to have been long since swallowed up by the encroachments of the sea, which is stated to have destroyed, in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII., a block-house, or small fort, which stood about half a mile eastward of the present beach. If this be correct, a great alteration must have been effected in the shape and appearance of the shore near Lowestoft.

The other chapel stood near the centre of the town, and appears to have been disused as a place for public worship, for many years after the dissolution by Henry VIII. Gillingwater describes it as having been erected on arches, and says, it was, in part, converted into an alms-house, for the residence of the poor, and the other portion used as a town-house. Such seems to have continued to be the state of this chapel, till the year 1570, when the inhabitants, experiencing much inconvenience from not having a place for public worship nearer than the church, made application to Bishop Parkhurst for a license, in order that divine service might be performed in this chapel, which was granted upon the express condition that the chapel should be decently ornamented and fitted up for that purpose, and that no public prayers should be used there, but those prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, and that neither the sacrament of Baptism nor the Lord's Supper should ever be administered there upon any account whatsoever.⁴⁷

Novembris, 1570.

Undecimo die mensis et anni suprascriptorum emanavit licentia direct. parochianis de Lowestoft sub hac verborum forma ; viz: Joannes, permissione divina Norvicen. Epus., dilectis nobis in Chro parochianis de Lowestoft nrarum dioces et jurisnis, saltm, gram, et benedictionem : devotionis affectum, quem ad

⁴⁷ Gillingwater.

divini cultus augmentum habere dinoscitur, propentius advertentes intelligentesque, quod propter certas causas justas et rationabiles nobis expositas ad nr̄am eccliam parochialem de Lowestoft præd. pro divinis audiend. commode ut optatis (hiberno p̄sertim tempore) accedere not potestis, ut in aliquo loco congruo et decenter ornato infra parochiam Lowestoft prædict. publicas preces per capellānum idoneum celebrari facere valeatis, dumodo tamen ecclesiæ paroch. de Lowestoft, seu ejusd. vicario exinde prejudicium minimè generetur, tam vobis humodi divina auditur quam capellano, ut præfatur, divina celebraturo licentiam in Dño concedimus per presentes; usque hanc nr̄am licentiam duximus fore revocandam. Ita, tamen, ut nec baptismn. nec communionem in loco prædict.; sed in ecclesia nr̄a parochiali vicarius, vel curatus, quicumque, vel celebrari faciat vel faciant: nec vos parochiani antedc̄i eorundem sacramentorum celebrationi in eodem interesse p̄sumatis quovismodo inhibentes, præterea ne alias preces publicas ibidem faciatis vel fieri patiamini, vel alr̄ quam est p̄scriptum in libro communio precum auctate regia edict. et toto parlamenti consensu approbat., vel injunction: ltima fulsitis auctate. Quod si contra feceritis, vel aliquis fecerat, hanc potestatem vobis concessam, inanem et nullam esse volumus. Et nihilom̄us in premissis offendentes, p̄cenis a jure inflictis, vel nr̄o arbitrio infligendis obnoxios subjacend."

After the granting of this license, divine service appears to have been performed in this chapel until about the year 1676, when, from its decayed condition, it became unfit for that purpose. It appears to have been but a mean thatched building. From the above period till 1698, the weekly prayers were read in the town chamber; but the occasional services were performed, and the sermons preached, at the church only.⁴⁸ In the latter year the chapel was rebuilt under the care and management of Captain Leake and Dr. Pake, at an expense of £350.⁴⁹ Though this chapel was much superior to the former building, it is described as a very indifferent structure, and, notwithstanding that baptisms were prohibited in the former chapel, this edifice was furnished with a font. Tanner says, speaking of the newly erected edifice, "I can't learn that there used to be any christenings in the chapel, till since it was rebuilt in 1698. And have been often told, that Elizabeth, y^e daughter of Samuel and Amy Darkin, who was baptized, December 29th, 1698, was the first that was baptized there. I have been told that my predecessor, Mr. Smith, married one or two couple at the chapel, which I would never venture to do. But as we could have few baptized publicly, if we were not to do it at the chapel, I have never scrupled it. The Archdeacon's officers never visited this chapel in all the time I have yet been at Lowestoft."⁵⁰ Divine service, with a sermon, used to be performed at the chapel always in the morning, except on sacrament days; and banns were constantly published there till the late Act; and have been since, when the weather hindered divine service and sermon from being at church. It was lighted in the evenings by a large brass chandelier, the gift of Mr. Martin Brown, formerly a Rotterdam merchant, and native of Lowestoft.⁵¹

On the 8th of January, 1832, a public notice was given at church of a town

⁴⁸ Town Records.

⁴⁹ Idem.

⁵⁰ Tanner's MSS.

⁵¹ Gillingwater.

meeting to consider the propriety of building a new and more convenient chapel for the use of the inhabitants; to appropriate for its site a portion of the town land, and to provide the necessary funds. In pursuance of which notice the inhabitants of Lowestoft met on Thursday, the 12th of January following, when it was resolved, that the present chapel having been found unsuitable in size and situation for the accommodation of the inhabitants, it was expedient that a new chapel be erected. That in the impossibility of enlarging the present site, if one more suitable cannot be found, application be made to the Church Building Commissioners to purchase a portion of the town land, opposite Back Street, and abutting on the Beccles road. That the new chapel should contain not less than 1200 sittings, and that in order to provide a fund for the erection and fitting up such chapel, subscriptions be collected; in respect of which, pews and sittings be allotted to the subscribers upon the terms after mentioned; that application be made to the Society for Building and Enlarging Churches, for aid; and lastly, voluntary contributions be collected from the public. That 300 sittings be disposed of under a faculty to be obtained from the Ordinary. That subscribers of £25 each be entitled to a pew, which shall hold, at least, six persons; and subscribers of smaller amount be entitled to one sitting for every £5 subscribed. The pews and sittings to be allotted to each subscriber by ballot, &c. That no expense be incurred relative to providing a site for building such new chapel, until the necessary funds, which were estimated at £2500, be subscribed and raised; and that a committee of inhabitants be formed to carry these resolutions into effect.

Subscriptions for pews were immediately entered into, which amounted to £790, besides donations of £130; of which the Rev. F. Cunningham, the Vicar, gave £100. On the 13th of January, at a meeting held in the town chamber, it was further resolved, that personal application should be made throughout the town for subscriptions and donations, and that applications should be made to different architects for plans and estimates. On the 16th of February, the site of the proposed building was determined on, and the draft of an application to the Incorporated Society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of Churches and Chapels, was prepared; which Society shortly after announced a grant of £600 towards the purposes required.

On the 17th of May, an application was made to Mr. Kitson, the Bishop's Secretary and Registrar, inquiring whether the Marriage Act would allow of the publication of banns and celebration of marriages in the new chapel intended to be erected at Lowestoft, and if so, whether the Bishop would be willing to grant a license for the above purposes. Mr. Kitson's reply stated, that the intended new chapel not being one "having a chapelry thereto annexed," nor "one situated in an extra-parochial place," did not come within the provisions of the Marriage Act of the fourth of Geo. IV. cap. 76; and therefore that publication of banns and solemnization of marriage cannot be

authorized to be performed therein. On the 24th of May, in consequence of the exertions of the Vicar and the principal inhabitants of the town, a sum of very nearly £2500 had been raised, including the grant from the Incorporated Society; and four days after, Mr. Brown, the architect selected by the committee, attended at Lowestoft with his plans, which were examined and approved, with a trifling exception. After divers tenders and propositions, that of Mr. John Bunn, of Norwich, to build the chapel with white brick, including the palisades, fencing, and boundary wall, for £2626, was agreed on, and signed on the 30th of July; at which time the sum of £75 was ordered to be paid to Messrs. Reeve, Elph, and Cleveland, the trustees appointed by the feoffees of the town land, as the price of the site for the chapel; and the further sum of £10, being the charge of the Solicitor of the Treasury, relative to the conveyance.

On Monday, August the 6th, 1832, the first stone of the new chapel was laid in the presence of a vast concourse of the inhabitants and visitors. The committee, the contractor, and architect, met at the vicarage-house, whence they proceeded to the ground. Two hundred and forty children—the Sunday and endowed schools belonging to the established church—had also been brought together. After an explanation of the object of the meeting, the Vicar laid the first stone, in which was deposited a piece of money, of the coinage of William IV., and a plate engraven as follows:

LOWESTOFT.
THE FIRST STONE OF THIS
CHAPEL,
TO BE CALLED BY THE NAME OF
SAINT PETER,
AND ERECTED
BY SUBSCRIPTIONS AND VOLUNTARY
CONTRIBUTIONS, WITH THE AID OF THE
INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR
BUILDING AND ENLARGING CHURCHES,
WAS LAID ON THE 6TH DAY OF AUGUST,
IN THE 3RD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS
MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,
WILLIAM THE FOURTH;
1832;
BY THE
REV. FRANCIS CUNNINGHAM, M.A., VICAR.
JOHN BROWN, ARCHITECT.

After this the Vicar offered up a prayer composed for the occasion, and the whole assembly sang the 100th Psalm. On the 15th of August, 1833, Dr. Charles Sumner, Lord Bishop of Winchester, under a commission given to him by the Bishop of this

diocese, proceeded to the act of consecration. Prayers were read by the Vicar, and the sermon preached by the Bishop; the text being taken from the 122nd Psalm, and 7th verse.

The subject of the Prelate's sermon was the *Peace* attendant upon a knowledge of the truths of the Gospel,—that Peace beautifully promoted by the various services of our church, and an application as to the possession of this Peace on the part of those present. A collection was made after the sermon of £56. 13s. 6d. On Sunday, August the 25th, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered for the first time at the communion table to 140 persons.

On the 15th of October following, a certificate was forwarded to the Secretary of the Incorporated Society, informing him, that the chapel had been completed in a substantial and workmanlike manner, and was capable of accommodating 1215 persons, including 900 free sittings. In consequence of subsequent arrangements, these sittings have been increased to 1263; of which 939 are free.

It appears that upon the completion of the work, and the putting up of a bell, weighing about 6 cwt., a sum of £196. 6s. 5d. was required for the payment of all the bills and expenses, which the vicar generously consented to advance by way of loan. Of this debt £140. 18s. 9d. were repaid; so that the final deficit paid by Mr. Cunningham was £55. 7s. 8d. It should be recorded, that an offer was made by Mr. Robert Allen, an inhabitant of Lowestoft, to present to the chapel, glass for the east window, painted by himself at the advanced age of eighty-seven, representing the king's arms, &c. But on consulting the architect, it was judged that this glass was not in character with the design of the building, and that, therefore, plain ground glass would be adopted to prevent the glare to which, otherwise, the congregation would be exposed. A copy of the original faculty for erecting this edifice is deposited in the town chest of Lowestoft, and the opinions of Dr. Lushington and Mr. Kitson respecting the faculty pews are in the hands of the vicar; from whose careful and well-arranged minutes of the proceedings adopted throughout the whole business, the preceding remarks have been extracted.

Among the notes attached to these records, it is stated that "the proposition is to build a chapel in a parish, where there is a parish church, but so distantly situated from the town, as, under many circumstances, to be of no use, and occasionally insufficient." The particulars are as follow:

"The parish church of Lowestoft was placed upwards of 500 years since in its present situation, under the impression, as it is supposed, that if nearer to the sea, it might, at no great length of time, be destroyed by its encroachments. But the sea, instead of advancing, has continued to recede, and now a new town has sprung up on the beach, and the church is left, even in fine weather, out of the reach of a considerable part of the population. In the inclement weather to which so frequently the easternmost

point of England is exposed, the church is not opened, and it would be highly inexpedient to hold an evening service in it, at any time. In order to meet the actual necessities of the place, part of a town house has been used by a license of Bishop Parkhurst, as a chapel, since the year 1579, on occasions, 'hiberno præsertim tempore,' according to the original document—when the people cannot without great inconvenience get to church. But this expedient is found insufficient. The chapel will hold between three and four hundred persons, but it is usually so filled, that when it is used, numbers do not attempt to go at all; and many, who at all events, will attend a public service, are driven to the Dissenting Meeting Houses. Some peculiar circumstances, connected with the town, make a new provision for public worship absolutely necessary. In the bathing season the church is not sufficiently large for the congregation, and then it would be expedient, if circumstances permitted, to open a second place of worship. Moreover, a harbour, for which the Government is about to grant a loan of £50,000, will, at no distant period, be opened; and Lowestoft, in the course of a short time, will become a commencing point to a navigation, which is likely to extend through a large part of Suffolk and Norfolk. For the persons attendant upon this harbour the church is most inconveniently situated, &c."

In a notice of the new chapel, printed in the provincial journals at the time of its foundation, its architecture was said to be in the style of the Temple Church at London. Wherein the similitude consists, the writer is unable to determine; unless, indeed, the presence of long narrow windows, unaccompanied by the charming proportions and graceful decorations of the proud Crusaders' church, be alone able to constitute its resemblance.

At the upper end of the town, near the Swan Lane, is the fragment of a flint-stone building, in which may be seen the weather-mouldings of one or two arches, apparently in the style of the reign of Henry VII. Gillingwater conjectures that it is the remnant of a cell, appertaining to the Priory of St. Bartholomew, in London; to which establishment the appropriation of the rectory of Lowestoft belonged. There seems to be no record in existence, however, to prove the correctness of this supposition.



The Town Seal.

THE CHURCH.

The rectory of Lowestoft was granted by King Henry I. to the Priory of St. Bartholomew in London, as is proved by the record called Testa de Nevill.

“*Ecclia de pua Gernem et de Gorleston, et de Lowystoft et de Beleton, sunt de dono Dni reg: et Magr. Alan de Stokes tenet illas p: canonicos de Sco Bartholomew de Smethefeld, quibus Dns Rex. H. avus illas dedit, ut dict.*”⁵²

In the Norwich Domesday book, which was compiled in 1255, it is returned as being in the hands of the Priory; and was then valued at seven marks.⁵³ It continued the property of this establishment till its dissolution by Henry VIII. As its site and possessions were granted by that monarch to Sir Richard Rich, Gillingwater has conjectured that the appropriation of Lowestoft was conveyed to this knight; which appears to be very doubtful, if not incorrect; because at an inquisition taken in the reign of Elizabeth, to ascertain the value of the vicarage of Lowestoft, it was returned, that “William Burnell, gentleman, of London, was owner of the parsonage, by purchase from her Majesty’s progenitors.”⁵⁴ In 1719, the great tithes were the property of the three grand-daughters of a Mr. Church, of Pakefield, whose names were Fowler, Landifield, and Warwick. There appears, however, to have been some dispute about this impropriation, for there was then a Chancery suit respecting it. By a decree of that court, it was ordered to be sold, and after some delay, was bought of the heirs of Mr. Church, by the Rev. John Tanner, then vicar of Lowestoft, who, with a liberality deserving the eternal gratitude of his successors, mainly contributed to restore to the vicarage the revenues, which monkish rapacity had originally abstracted. The particulars of this transaction are preserved in Mr. Tanner’s handwriting; and it would be injustice to relate them in other words than his own, addressed in a letter to the Bishop of Norwich, and dated September 17th, 1754:

My Lord,

Mr. Belward tells me, your lordship would like to know what addition hath been made to this vicarage, w^{ch} occasions my sending the following account. The great, or corn-tithes of this parish—formerly impropriated to the Priory of St. Bartholomew, in Smithfield, London—of the yearly value of £60, including the barn they used to be laid in, were to be sold, about 1719, by a decree in Chancery. I consulted my parishioners and other friends about purchasing them for the benefit of the vicar, and receiving great encouragement and promises of contributions towards it, I bade for them, and tho’ much opposed, by God’s blessing obtained them. These tythes, wth the barn and an old copyhold house w^{ch} I was forced to take with them, cost, wth the great charge that attended the purchase, and some expence w^{ch} I was put to about the settlement, £1250; whereof, by God’s blessing, and the assistance of good

⁵² Testa de Nevill, 285.

⁵³ Norwich Domesday.

⁵⁴ MSS. pen. Vic.

friends, I rais'd, with Queen Anne's Bounty, about £710, and would have settled the whole tythes and the barn, with the governors of the Queen's Bounty, upon the vicar; subject to the raising the remaining £540, by proper yearly payments, under some conditions for the vicar's residence; and w^{ch} many of my benefactors thought necessary. But they disliked it, and put me upon dividing the tythes into two parts, and settling one of them upon the vicar absolutely and immediately, and laying the burthen upon the other. To get my benefactors' consent to this, I was obliged to promise that I would not take any of the profits of that part w^{ch} should be forthwith settled upon the vicar, but apply them all, with those of the other part, towards defraying the £540, w^{ch} was wanting to compleat the purchase. It was 1721 before I could get through this first settlement; and as soon after as I well could, I settled the other part of the tythes for the payment of £440, and after that for the benefit of the vicar, under the conditions insisted upon by my benefactors: the other £100 I was forced to advance myself, and to hold the barn and old house in my own name, till it could be better ordered. I found both chancel and barn very much out of repair, and was obliged to lay out a great deal upon them. These large repairs, interest money, and taxes, laying heavy upon me, it was Feb. 6th, 1741-2, before I could pay off the £440 taken up upon the tythes, and near two years more before I could clear the barne. Since that time I have had the benefit of this purchase, but before, I had only 50s. or 52s. 6d. per year for my trouble in gathering the tythes, disposing of the corn, and looking after the repairs, keeping the accounts, &c.

There being no house belonging to the minister of this parish, we would have kept the house we were forced to take wth the tythes, for him; but it was so bad, that after having been at considerable trouble and charge about it, it was thought, at Lady Day, 1736, most adviseable to part with it, and to apply what we got for it towards repairs and discharging so much of our debt upon the barne, that it might be answerable for £50 only, and the fee of it settled upon trustees to go along wth the tythes, before the Mortmain Act took place; and it was done accordingly. This barn is copyhold, but fine certain, viz., double the quit-rent, w^{ch} being 1s. 8d. per year, the fine upon the admission of a single life is 3s. 4d. only, besides the steward's fees: two of the three trustees who were admitted in 1736 are living, and likely to live. I make now about £100 per year of the great and small vthes, and about one acre of glebe and the church-yard, and I make about £40 per year more of the fisheries, Easter offerings, and surplice fees.

This, tho' no part of what your lordship desir'd to know, I chose to mention, because many of my neighbours think my profits here above £160 per year, and seem unwilling to believe me when I say that I make but about £140 per year of them, one year wth another.

J. TANNER.⁵⁵

The benefice of Lowestoft is, therefore, now a vicarage endowed with the great tithes.

The indenture whereby Mr. Tanner settled the portion of the great tithes upon the vicar is dated on the 6th of November, 1721, and the conditions by which the vicar for the time being is to receive them for his proper use, are that if he shall, after the first summer after his institution and induction to the preferment, be absent from the said parish by the space of four calendar months, or seventeen weeks in any year; to be computed from Midsummer to Midsummer; or shall neglect to perform, or cause to be performed, the duties of his parish church, it shall and may be lawful for the churchwardens of Lowestoft and the schoolmaster of the Free School of the foundation of Mr.

⁵⁵ MSS. pen. Vic.

Annot, in Lowestoft, to take, collect, and receive the said tithes in that part of the parish so appropriated by John Tanner. On condition that the said schoolmaster shall for every year's profits that shall by this means fall to him, teach six such poor children as shall be sent unto him by the said churchwardens.⁵⁶

Before the dissolution of St. Bartholomew's Priory, the annual value of the vicarage of Lowestoft was estimated at £ 44. 4s. 5½d.

	£.	s.	d.
14 Boats at £1.	14	0	0
Privy Tythes	13	0	0
Obl. at Holy Cross Chapel	9	0	0
Glebe, Hay, Herbage, Lactage, Pigs, Offerings, Marr: Xtenings, Burials	8	12	8
	44	12	8
Deduct Syn: & Proc:	0	8	2½
	£44	4	5½

According to the analysis of a decree, dated February 12, 1568, the tenth of Elizabeth, among the records of the Exchequer, under the head of First Fruits and Tithes, it was found :

1. That the vicarage of Lowestoft in the county of Suffolk, at the former taxation and valuation of benefices and spiritual preferments in this kingdom of England, was taxed, valued, and certified by the Commissioners appointed for the purpose at the clear annual value of £ 24. 16s. 10d.

2. That thence, the tithe to be paid every year to the Queen's Majesty was raised to £10. 9s. 9d.

3. That on the 31st of January, 1566, Richard Mighells, Gent., in the name of the inhabitants of the parish of Lowestoft, came in his person before the Barons of the Exchequer, and complained that the aforesaid inhabitants were heavily distressed and vexed by the vice-collectors of tithes for divers arrears, both of tithes and subsidies : that the aforesaid vicarage of Lowestoft had greatly fallen in value since the former taxation, so that they were unable to pay, either the annual tithe aforesaid, or the subsidy, according to its former taxation : and requested that a commission be granted to fit persons, who should clearly make known to the court, the state of the aforesaid vicarage.

4. In consequence of this representation, a commission was appointed. The Commissioners were—John Blennerhasset, Knt., Thomas Playter, Knt., John Jernyngham, jun., Knt., William Roberts, Gregory Payne, and John Duke, Gents.

⁵⁶ MSS. pen. Vic.

The date of the commission is February 12, 1566, the eighth of Elizabeth. The inquiries were:

1. Is Lowestoft a vicarage?
2. What lands belong to it, and of what value?
3. What tithes and other emoluments?

These deductions to be allowed: all rents to the chief lord of the fee; and all other annual and perpetual charges, lawfully charged.

4. Also the whole annual value of the vicarage, and if of less value than it was at the first certificate thereof, the reason of its decay: which first valuation is thus stated:

	£.	s.	d.
John Brown, Vicar of Lowestoft, values the glebe land at	1	0	0
Tithe of Hay, Fish, Offerings, &c.	25	6	1
	£26	6	1
From this deduct the Synodals to the Bishop of Norwich	0	0	8
Procurations to the Archdeacon	0	7	6
	0	8	2
And therefore the clear annual value of the vicarage was	£25	17	11
And thence for the yearly tithe to the Queen	£10	9	9

5. Examination of Commissioners, conducted April 26, 1566. Witnesses duly sworn—viz.: Richard Mighells, 55 years old; Anthony Jettour, 43; John Grudgefield, 48. Their deposition amounts to this—viz.:

1. There is a vicarage at Lowestoft.
2. That William Burnell, of London, Gent., hath the parsonage to him and his heirs, with the tythe corn.
3. The vicarage—all other land.
4. The only piece of land belonging to the vicarage is worth 12 pence a year.
5. Tithes are,

	£.	s.	d.
Of Hay	2	0	0
Herbage	1	4	0
Lactage	0	10	0
Four Yearly Offerings	4	2	0
Marriages, Xtenings, Burials	0	13	4
Tithe of Pig	0	3	4
Tithe of Fish	1	0	0
	9	12	8

6. Causes of decay.

There used to be twelve or fourteen boats for Iceland, and now but one. The dole of every ship, worth to the vicar yearly—£1.

There used to be privy tithes—£13, and now nothing of that, and there used to be oblation to Holy Cross of £9—now nothing.

7. Annually paid out of the living to the Bishop and Archdeacon, 8s. 2d., and therefore the value of the said vicarage is £9. 4s. 5d.

But as the valuation of the living was thought too low, and that in deducting for annual burdens they had deducted what ought not altogether to be deducted, at length, by common consent, the living was rated at £10. 1s. 0d. Therefore the said vicarage is to be taxed in the payment of the annual tithe, and in the payment of First Fruits, and annual subsidies; and in the payment of all arrears according to the aforesaid valuation of £10. 1s. 0d.; and neither more nor less. Letters patent, in witness of this, were granted February 12, 1568, the tenth year of Queen Elizabeth, agreeable to the special request of the said Richard Mighells.

From Michaelmas, 1786, to Michaelmas, 1787, appears the following account of the receipts of the vicarage; showing the increased value of property:

	£.	s.	d.
By Herring Fishery, 1786	16	5	6
Easter Offerings, 1787	11	2	11
Mackarel Fare	5	10	7½
Surplice Fees	22	0	6
Monuments and Head-stones	1	17	6
Mortuaries			
Glebe and Tithes	165	19	9
	£222	16	9½

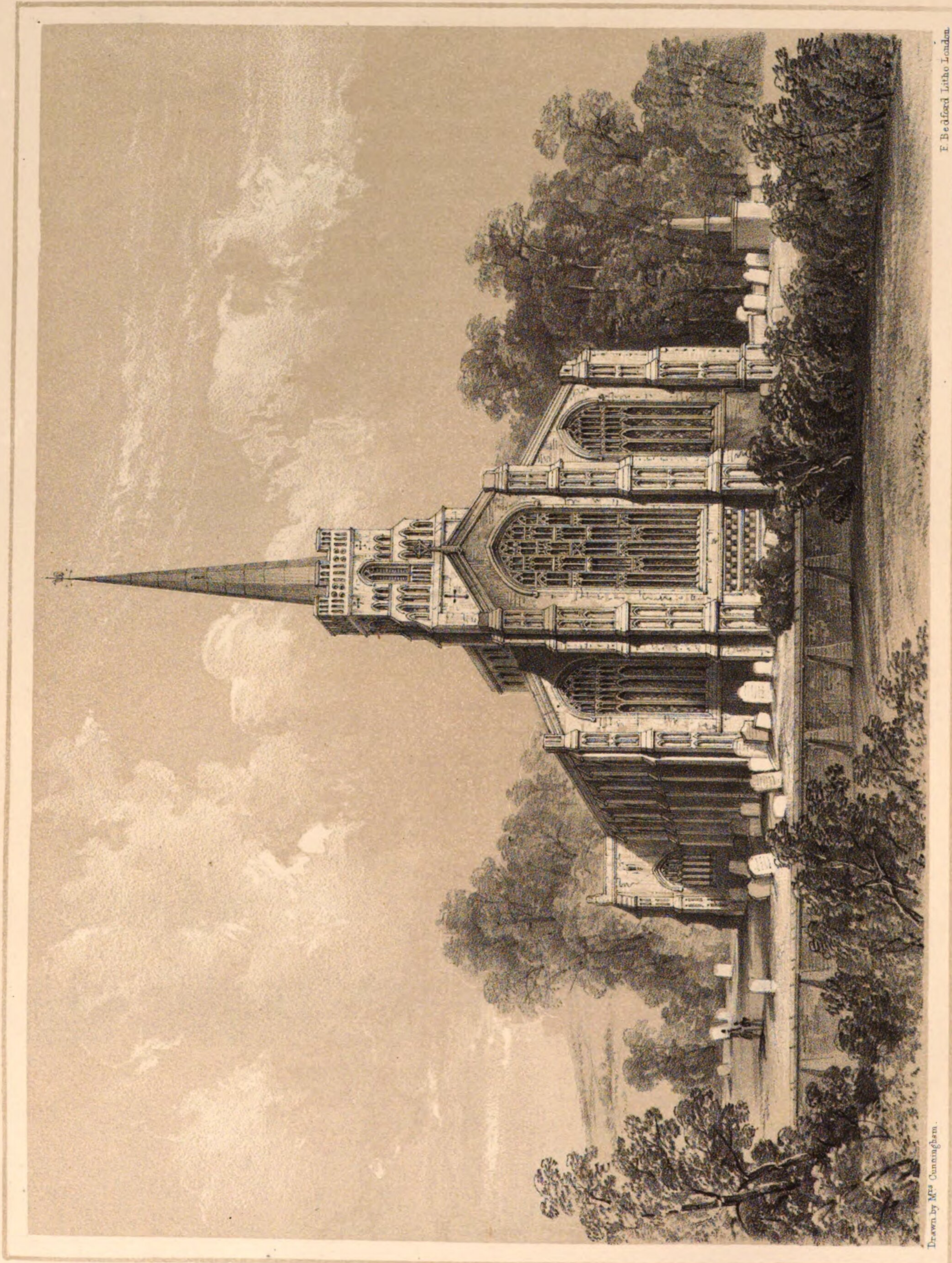
Though mortuaries are not entered in the preceding account, they are evidently due to the Vicar, for in the payments on account of Robert Coe there is "Item, p^d. to Mr. Hawes for his buryal and mortuary 11s." anno — .

There are many entries also in the time of Tanner where he received 10s. from the executors of every person dying worth £40, and upwards.⁵⁷

The rent-charge now payable is as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
Rent-charge payable to the Vicar	152	2	0
„ „ by augmentation	107	8	0
„ „ subject to conditions of residence	92	10	0
	£352	0	0

⁵⁷ Tanner's MSS. pen. Vic.



E Bedford Litho London.

LOWESTOFT CHURCH FROM THE S. E.

London, Published by the Author.

Printed by Sandeys & Co

In addition to which are the doles of fish.

There are 4 acres, 2 roods, 1 perch of glebe land.

Besides the deductions for synodals and procurations, this benefice was further charged with the annual payment of 1*s.* 8*d.* to the lord of the manor, and 3*s.* 4*d.* to the Crown for a piece of land belonging, before the Reformation, to a guild in the town.

Among the records in the possession of the Vicar is a deed dated the 6th of March, 1788, whereby the Rev. John Arrow, then Vicar of Lowestoft, purchased of the Crown the yearly rent of 3*s.* 4*d.*, due and payable by the incumbent for or in respect of a certain messuage or tenement and pightle of land, called Saint Rook's Light, at the price of £ 5. From which outgoing the living is therefore discharged.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Margaret, stands about half a mile westward of the town, at a distance which its founders probably considered secure from the incursions of the ocean. It is supposed to have been founded about the middle of the fourteenth century, on the site of a more ancient fabric, to which the tower, from its inferior proportions, and meaner construction, is concluded to have belonged. The general style of architecture employed in this structure does not militate against such an assumption; though I feel convinced that much of the tracery which enriches its windows is referable to a later era.



As the Priory of St. Bartholomew, in London, held the impropriation of Lowestoft when its church was rebuilt, we may fairly ascribe the credit of raising this noble pile to the munificence of that establishment, which has here left an incontestable and lasting proof, that all its funds were not absorbed by the luxury and self-indulgence of its inmates. How many of her grandest ecclesiastical structures does the county of Suffolk owe to the science, the zeal, and the taste of a tribe of ecclesiastics, whom we are too

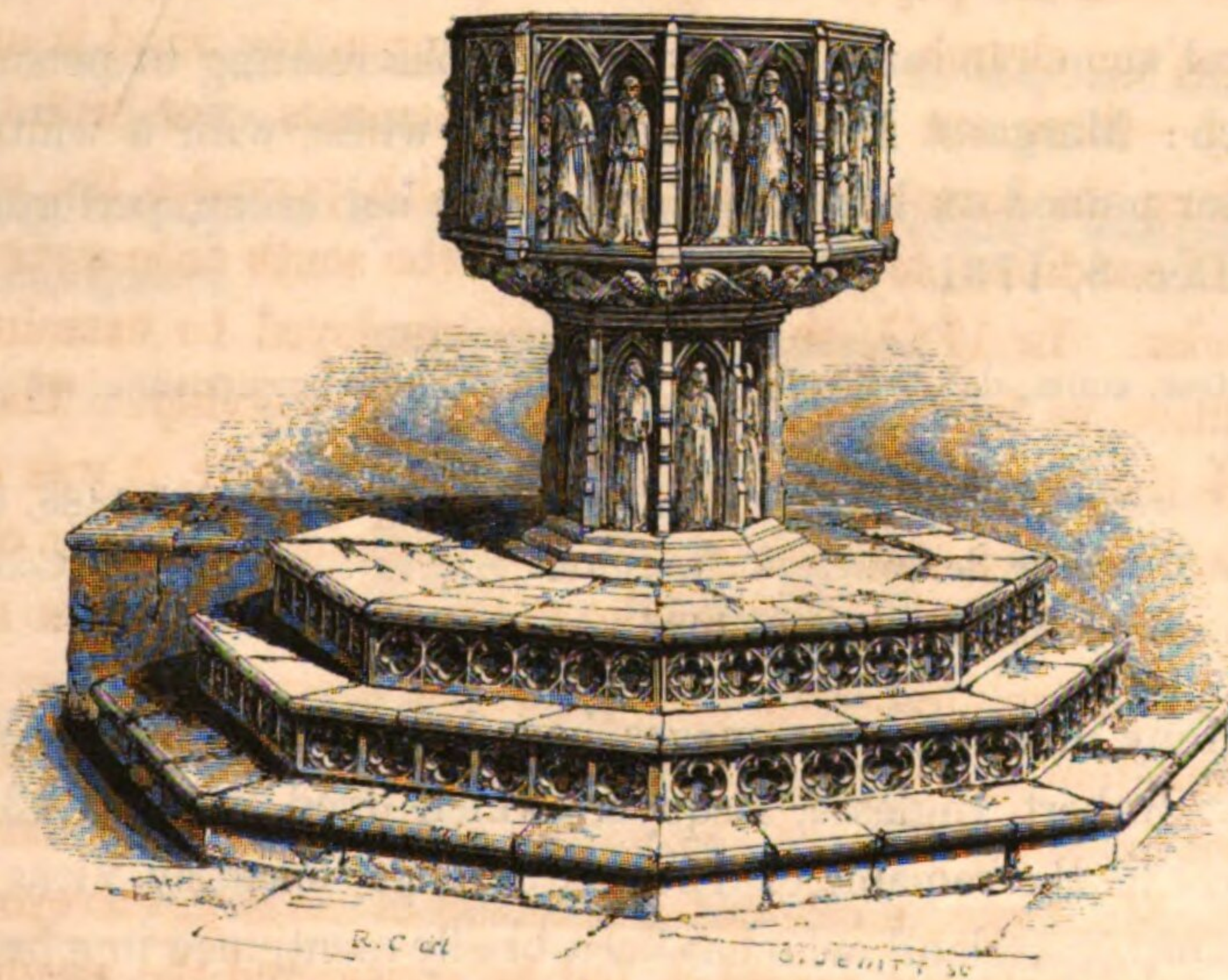
apt, from a just abhorrence of their tainted creed, and some defects in individual character, to consign to contempt, if not to detestation!

The church of Lowestoft is of very considerable dimensions, measuring, externally, upwards of 182 feet in length, by 62 in width, and 43 in elevation. These, for a parish church, are noble proportions. It comprises a nave, chancel, two aisles, north and south porches, and a square tower, surmounted by an inelegant and tapering spire of timber, covered with lead; the extreme height of which is 120 feet. Viewed laterally, this edifice does not appear to the greatest advantage, in consequence of its great length, flat roof, and disproportionate tower. The point selected by the artist to whom I am indebted for the view which illustrates the present subject, is happily chosen from the south-east, whence the component members of the fabric group more harmoniously, and its noble eastern window is judiciously displayed. The drip-stone on the south side of this window is sculptured to form the bust of an angel bearing a shield, on which are displayed three crowns. Of these, the hands of the figure, in some measure, hide the two uppermost, but the lowest is clearly visible. These bearings are not emblematic of any connexion with Bury Abbey, nor with the See of Ely, as many suppose. * I take them rather to be the arms of East Anglia, in which district the church is situated; though the cognizance must have been assigned to that kingdom long after it ceased to exist as an independent state. On the roof of the south porch are to be seen the popish emblems of the Holy Trinity and of our Lord's Passion. On entering the church, the effect produced upon the mind is unquestionably grand and imposing—there are here no gaudy ornaments, nor trifling parts—the charm arises solely from the harmony of proportion which pervades the whole interior. The fabric is in sound condition, although the wall of the south aisle swerves somewhat from the perpendicular. In 1789, surveyors were employed to examine and report upon its actual condition, as fears were entertained as to its stability. These gentlemen reported, that though the south wall was out of the perpendicular, it was not in danger of falling, being secured by the buttresses; and that the lateral pressure of the roof was effecting no injury: that whatever alteration there was between its then state and that in which it was at its first building, happened before the present roof was put on, which is of ancient date; and that it was in no immediate danger, but likely to continue an ornament to the town for many years.⁵⁸ From the same authority as that now quoted, I learn, that in 1783, Mr. Essex, a celebrated architect of his day, surveyed this church. His report as to its stability is not recorded, but he considered the north aisle to have been built at a later period than the rest of the church, the arches of the windows on the south side being more acute than those on the north, and agreeing with the form of

⁵⁸ MSS. pen. Vic.

those in the arcade of the nave. Under the chancel floor is a well-wrought crypt of stone, entered by a winding staircase from the interior of the north wall; and at the west end of the nave is a lofty narrow arch, supposed to have been originally used as the penitents' porch, agreeably to the custom of the ancient church.⁵⁹ Gillingwater tells us that part of the screen was remaining about the year 1710.⁶⁰ The church is kept in repair by lands belonging to it, which, with the town estate, consist of about 104 acres, together with several tenements, which are let by auction in the presence of the vicar and churchwardens. Church-rates, however, have been occasionally raised, notwithstanding Gillingwater's assertion to the contrary;⁶¹ for in 1716, the sum of £102. 7s. 6d. was gathered for that purpose.

The chancel was thoroughly repaired and the walls wainscoted at the east end by the Rev. Mr. Tanner soon after the purchase of the impropriation. The great east window is filled with stained glass, painted by Mr. Robert Allen, a gentleman of Lowestoft, who presented it to the church. Regarded as a work of the period in which it was put up, it is a very creditable performance. The subjects are scriptural illustrations, with quotations from the Gospel; and some armorial designs—as the arms of England—those of the Rev. Mr. Arrow, gules, 3 arrows in fess or, barbed and feathered proper; and Lockwood, arg. a fess between 3 martlets sable. A large brass eagle, formerly used as a lectern, stands with outspread wings in the chancel.



THE FONT

is particularly elegant, but has been much defaced. The uppermost step bears an

⁵⁹ Neale's Views of Churches.

⁶⁰ Page 273.

⁶¹ Idem, 262, note.

inscription, now illegible through time and violence ; and the rich series of figures with which it was, and is still, in some measure, adorned, received irreparable injury in 1644, when Francis Jessope, the deputy of William Dowsing, visited this church. The Rev. James Rowse, then Vicar of Lowestoft, has thus recorded the havoc committed here by this iconoclast.

In the same yeare after, one the 12th of June, there came one Jissope with a commission from the Earle of Manchester to take away from gravestones all inscriptions one wch hee found 'orate pro anima.' A wretched commissioner, not able to read or find out that wch his commission enjoined him to remove : hee took up in our church soe much brasses, as hee sould to Mr. Josiah Wild for five shillings, wch was afterwards, contrary to my knowledge, runn into the litle bell that hangs in the town house. Thear wearr taken up in the middle ally, twelve peeces, belonging to twelve severall generations of the Jettors.

In the chancell, one belonging to Bpp. Scroope ; the words there, "Richardus Scroope, Episcopus Dromorocensis, et hujus ecclie vicarius, hic jacet, qui obiit 10 May, anno 1364."

There was alsoe by this Jyssop taken up in the vicar's chancell one the north side of the church, a fair peece of brasse with this inscription : "Hic jacet Johannes Goodknapp, hujus ecclesiae vicarius, qui obiit 4^{to} Novembris, anno Dni. 1442." ⁶²

There must be a mistake here in the worthy Vicar's memorandum, which he probably entered from memory, for Bishop Scroope's christian name was Thomas. In the 'Magna Britannia Antiqua et Nova,' he is called Scroope alias Bradley, and said to be buried on the 15th of January, 1491, and mentioned amongst the writers in the reign of Henry VII.

There are several memorandums in the parish books relating to penances performed in Lowestoft church : Margaret Newton, clothed in white, with a white wand in her hand, having a paper pinned on her breast describing her crime, performed penance in Lowestoft church, Dec. 8, 1751.

Joës Bushopp per test. suum, dat. 7 die Sep. A. Dni. 1457, legat corpus suum ad sepeliend. in ecclia parochiali de Lowestoft.

Alicia Langley, de Lowestoft, vidua p. test. suum dat. 2 die April: A. Dni. 1486, legat corpus suum sepeliend. in ecclia Scæ Margarete de Lowestoft : constituit extores suos, Robtum Cooke, de Lowestoft p̄dict., et Emmam ux̄m suam. Probat. 21 Apr. 1486.

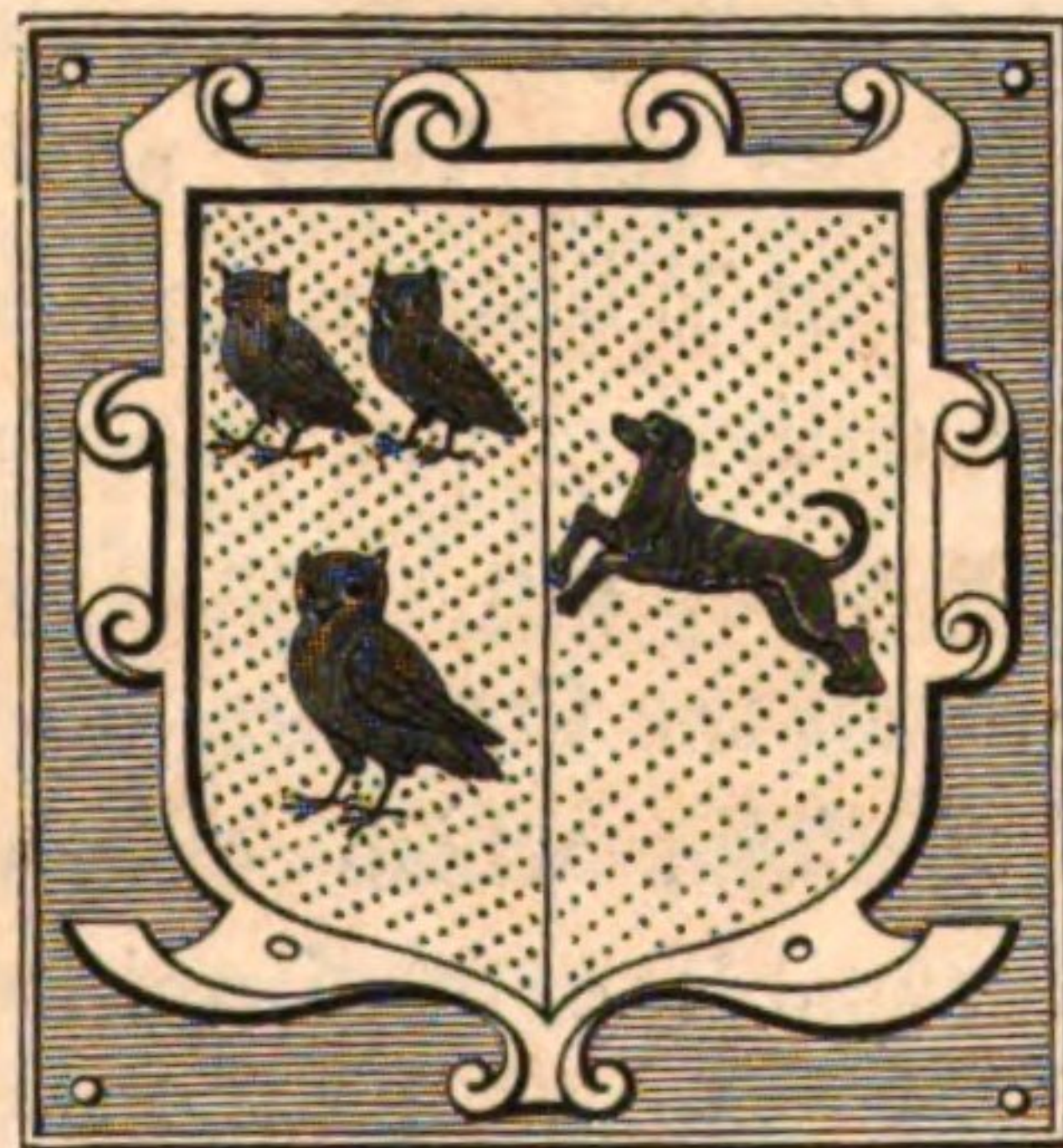
Monuments.—Many illustrious personages have been buried here. Weever records the monument of "Robert Inglosse, Esquyer, which dyed in anno 1365." In the middle of the chancel lie the remains of Thomas Scroope, formerly Vicar of this parish, and Bishop of Dromore, in Ireland, who has been briefly mentioned in a preceding clause. His effigy, in brass, habited in his episcopal robes, with a crozier in one hand, and his pastoral staff in the other, was formerly to be seen on a large stone, surrounded by a

⁶² Parish Registers.

circumscription, and ornamented with divers heraldic devices: but all have long since disappeared. This remarkable man, surnamed Bradley from the place of his birth, was descended from the ancient and noble family of the Scroopes of Yorkshire. He was first a monk of the order of St. Benedict, but finding the rules too lax for his conscience, he took upon him the profession of a Dominican, and afterwards became a Carmelite at Norwich. In that city he wrote a learned treatise upon the institution of his order, and preached the Gospel round the adjacent country, clothed in hair and sackcloth, and girt with an iron chain. Retiring into a cell in his monastery, he became an anchorite during twenty years. By Eugenius IV. he was made Bishop of Dromore, and was sent by that Pontiff on an embassy to the Isle of Rhodes, of which journey he wrote an elaborate history. Returning to Ireland, he quitted his bishopric, and came into Suffolk, where he again embraced a solitary life; and wandering about this town and its neighbourhood, preached to the people, and distributed among the poor, or employed in pious uses, whatever money he could procure. He was instituted to this vicarage in 1478, and died at Lowestoft, January 15th, 1491, at the age of nearly one hundred years—beloved and revered by the people. If, however, the date thus assigned to his death be correct, he must have resigned his vicarage previously, because Robert Tomsen, his successor in this preferment, was collated on the 14th of March, 1490. Weever, in his 'Funeral Monuments,' informs us he was buried "cum epitaphio elegiaco," and records one of the last verses placed on his tomb.

The soul, quite worn out with bitter disease, is disunited from the body, and seeks the heavens: whilst its earthly load is left to join the mother clay.

The following inscription by some unaccountable chance escaped the vigilance of Jessop and his coadjutors.



Orate p.āia dñe Margarete Parker q^e obiit p^a
die marcij a^o dñi m^o b^{co} vij^o cui aīe ppiciet dē.

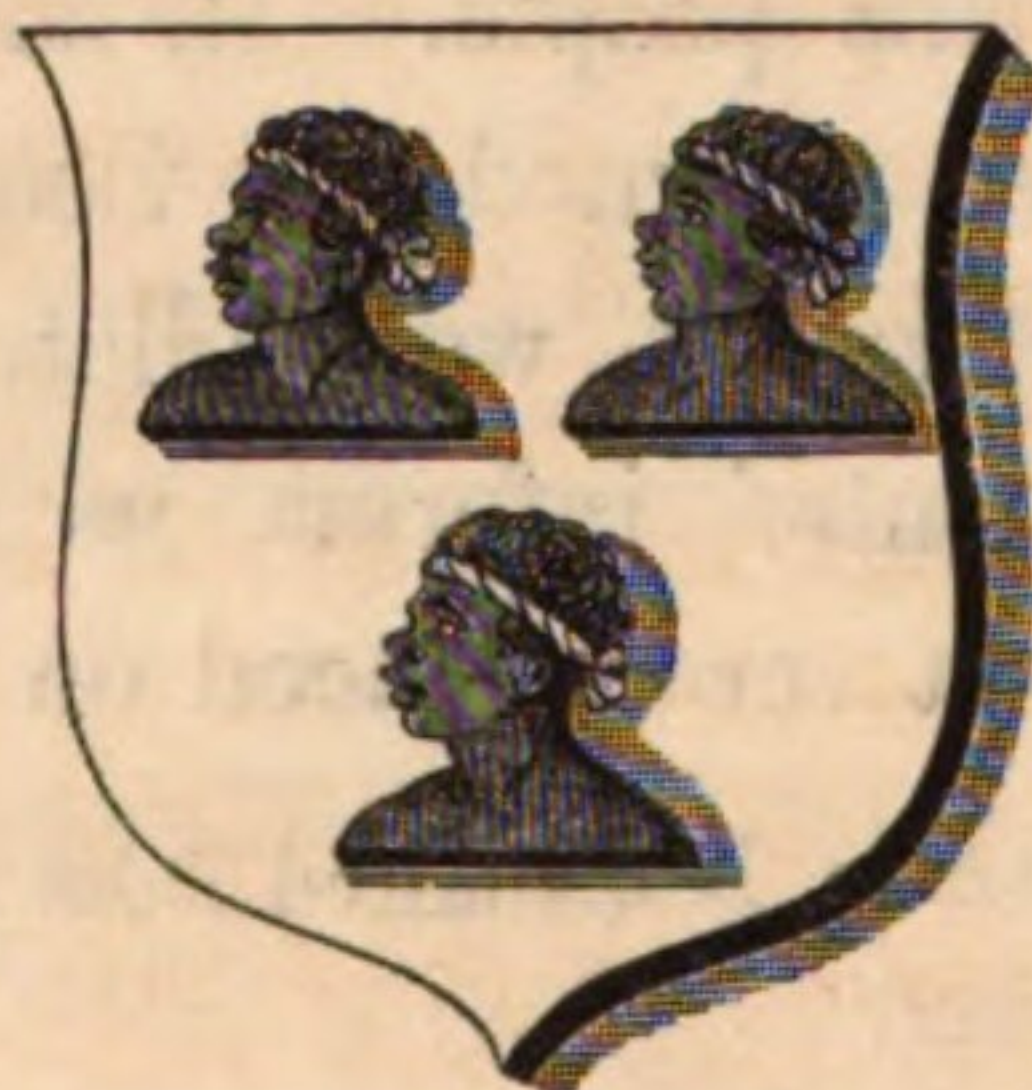
Mr. Thomas Annot, who founded the Grammar School in Lowestoft in 1570, is buried in the south aisle, under the following inscription:

Prosopopeia villae Lastoftiensis.

**Nomina justorum nunquam moritura manebunt
 Digna.q. perpetuis laudibus acta bigent.
 Qui mihi donabit largissima munera Thomas
 Annottus moriens hac sepelitur humo.
 Octoginta decem vixit foelicitur annos,
 Tandem mortifera tela cruenta manu.
 Mors fera visceribus torsit supremaq. vitae
 Tempora quindecima luce Nobembris erant.**

On the first step leading to the communion rails is an inscription to Mary, the wife of John Tanner, who died Nov. 28, 1744, aged 62. This lady's maiden name was Knight.

Close adjoining lies the body of her husband, the Rev. John Tanner, 51 years Vicar of this church, who was interred here Dec. 26, 1759.



This worthy clergyman, whom Gillingwater correctly describes as "a person of the most eminent piety and integrity, a truly primitive pastor, and of the most exemplary life and conversation," was born in the year 1684, and was the third son of Thomas Tanner, Vicar of Market Lavington, in Wiltshire, and brother to Dr. Thomas Tanner, formerly Bishop of St. Asaph, the author of the 'Notitia Monastica,' which was completed and published by his brother John, the Vicar of Lowestoft, who also prefixed the preface. Mr. Tanner was precentor of the Cathedral of St. Asaph, and commissary and official to the Archdeaconry of Suffolk, which offices he resigned as soon as the infirmities of age rendered him incapable of performing their duties. An honourable notice of the death of this good man appeared in the public papers, on the 22nd of December, 1759. Mr. Tanner is already favourably known to the readers of this History by his exertions in rebuilding Kirkley Church, and restoring the impropriations of those of Kessingland and Lowestoft. I add the following anecdotes of his private life, to show that he was charitable and kind without ostentation, and rigid in enforcing whatever he considered due to his office or position in life.

The Rev. James Alderson, minister of a dissenting congregation at Lowestoft, being very ill, Mr. Tanner sent him a parcel by his servant, which Mr. Alderson received, but found very difficult to open. When he had at last succeeded in unclosing the packet, to his great surprise, he found five guineas, which Mr. Tanner hoped he would accept; assigning as a reason why they were packed up so close, his desire that his servant might not know it.

Two years before his death Mr. Tanner writes the following letter; which shows that his vigour of mind, and strict attention to the minutest duties of his office, continued to the last.

Lowestoft, October 12, 1757.

Mr. Spicer,

I was seventy-three years of age in June last, and can't expect to live much longer, but while I am minister of the parish, I insist upon the old version of the psalms being sung to old tunes, that every one that can and will sing, may join in it. In my opinion, every one that can sing, hath a right to sing, and ought not to be deprived of that right, as by these new tunes the generality are: and every one ought to know the words that are sung: and if any one doth not know what is sung,—as in the new fashioned way of singing the new version, which few of our congregation have, without reading, they cannot do,—'tis impossible for them to praise God in the singing, which is, and ought to be, the chief end and intent of it. My successor may possibly think otherwise of this, and therefore I do not altogether forbid these new singers, but am content, that they should sing a psalm every Sunday, if they please, before prayers begin; and that once in a while, as once in two or three months, they may, if they please, sing both before and after sermon, too; provided they ask my leave to do it; and let me know in the morning, what they intend to sing. But the more they sing of the old version, I shall like it the better; and I desire you would always name the psalm, that people may know it.

Yours,

J. TANNER.

Pray acquaint Mr. Brown, and the singers, with this. If either the present set of new singers, or any other, shall pretend to sing without my leave, I am resolved to put some slur upon them.⁶³

The following, copied from his own handwriting, proves his benevolent and humble spirit:

Being resolved to have no epitaph, I laid such a stone over my vault, as would not admit of any. But having an hint given me that my circumstances required a different monument, I took down several old and mean seats on the south side of the middle alley, and built new ones at very near one hundred pounds expense; and intended to have done the like on the north side of that alley. But three or four things happened almost together, which made me alter my mind. And having since met with an epitaph to my liking, I put it down here; though I would not have it put elsewhere.

If I have taken any pains,
And aught that 's commendable remains,
Be that my monument; if not,
Let me for ever be forgot.

See 'Poems Serious and Comical,' by Henry Baker, Part II. p. 39. London, 1726.

⁶³ Tanner's MSS. pen. Vic.

VICARS OF LOWESTOFT.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
John Ayshle	1308	The Bishop of Norwich, pleno jure patronus.
Richard de Walcote	1330	Id.
John de Garboldesham	1331	Id.
Matthew de Rollesby	1339	Id.
John Everard	1347	Id.
John de Welberham	1360	Id.
William Homfrey	1365	Id.
. Apostolicus	1383	Id.
William Smogget		
William Sekynton	1432	Id.
John Mildewell	1442	Id.
Thomas Shirecroft	1456	Id.
John Manyngham	1456	Id.
Idem	1458	Id.
Thomas Epis Dromorensis	1478	Id.
Robert Tomsen	1490	Id.
John Whetacre	1507	Id.
Edward Lee	1508	Vicar-General.
John Bayly	1510	
John Brown	1511	The Bishop.
John Blomevyle	1540	Thomas Godsalve, p. h. v.
Thomas Downing	1555	Alexander Mather.
William Bently	1574	The Bishop.
John Gleson		
Robert Hawys	1610	Id.
Francis Presse		
James Rowse	1639	Id.
Henry Yowell	1654	Id.
Jos. Hudson	1677	Id.
Edward Carleton	1691	Id.
William Whiston	1698	Id.
James Smith	1702	Id.
John Tanner	1708	Id.
John Arrow	1760	Id.
Robert Potter	1789	Id.
Richard Lockwood	1804	Id.
Francis Cunningham	1830	Id.

Prior S. Bartholomei Londiniensis habet eam in proprios usus. Estimatio rectorie vij marc : estimatio vicarie ejusdem vi marc. ds.

In 1560, William Nayshe officiated here, though never instituted to the vicarage. He was buried Aug. 25, 1603.

Before the Reformation there were in this church the guilds of the Holy Trinity, St. Mary, St. George, and St. Margaret.

The registers of Lowestoft commence in 1561; in which year there were nineteen marriages, fifty-nine baptisms, and forty-seven burials. These records, which are now very voluminous, were accurately indexed by the late Rev. Bartholomew Ritson, whose sudden and fatal attack while preaching at Hopton has been there recorded.⁶⁴ He was buried in the church-yard of Lowestoft, amidst the tears and regrets of the most numerous assembly of persons ever witnessed on such an occasion in the town. The general respect for this most worthy clergyman was proved by more than half the population attending his body to the grave. Amongst the number were individuals of different religious persuasions, agreeing alike in their desire to testify respect for the departed. The shops were all closed, and during the funeral service real sorrow was depicted on every countenance; evincing how completely the virtues of the deceased had endeared him to his flock and fellow-townsmen. The service was performed by the Rev. F. Cunningham, who, after its conclusion, addressed the persons assembled from the reading-desk in the church. By the Vicar the deceased was very aptly compared to the good Samaritan, in the practical, laborious, and self-denying character of his charity and life.

In the year 1793, a piece of ground, abutting upon the north side of the church-yard, and containing 1 acre 2 roods of land, was demised, on a lease of five hundred years, to the Vicar of Lowestoft, and his lawful successors, to be added, and appropriated, and used as an additional burial-ground to the then insufficient church-yard of Lowestoft.

The celebrated mathematician, William Whiston, was instituted to this vicarage on the 19th of August, 1698. He resigned the preferment on the 19th of the same month, in the year 1702, when he succeeded Sir Isaac Newton in his professor's chair at Cambridge. The following extract from a book entitled 'Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Mr. William Whiston, &c., 1749,' will show us how actively he discharged his professional duties here.

In the year 1698, Bishop Moor gave me the living of Lowestoft cum Kessingland, by the sea-side, in Suffolk. I had here about 2000 souls under my inspection, when I set myself to do my duty, and really to take curam animarum, care of the souls that were now committed to me. I provided me a very good curate, or assistant, Mr. John Troughton, who also taught a small school there; of which he made £25, or £30 a year, besides the £30 that I allowed him, while yet I could hardly promise myself, clear, above £120 a year. The revenues then chiefly arising from the North Sea herring and mackarel fishery:

⁶⁴ *Vide* Hopton, p. 27.

where my dues were half a dole out of every fishing-boat, which were usually about thirty in each. So that instead of tythes on the 10th part, I received only about $\frac{1}{60}$ of the product of the sea. I here set up public prayers, morning and evening, every day in a chapple within the town; and therein to encourage a more numerous and constant attendance, I used, after a while, besides a lesson out of the New Testament, that abridgment of the public prayers, which had been before collected by some good man, and published under the title of 'The Common Prayer-Book the Best Companion.' Which, when I informed Bishop Lloyd of, he highly approved of what I had done; and ordered that book to be bought for him. I constantly preached twice a day at the church, which was three furlongs out of the town; and all the summer season, at least, I had a catechetick lecture at the chapel in the evening; designed more for the instruction of the adult, than for the children themselves; to which lecture the dissenters also would come, and by which I always thought I did more good than by my sermons. This method of catechising was begun by me at Bishop Moor's chappel at Norwich, for his children, and some others that desired to be my auditors there. Nay, the Bishop, himself, would come sometimes; and approved of my lectures so well, that he once moved me to print them; but I told him I could not do that, for they were not written down, but spoken off-hand from short notes, as a great part of my sermons at Lowestoft were also: which gained me time for my other more learned studies, without neglecting my cure. And by being naturally spoken in a more easy way, and more familiar style, were generally more edifying and acceptable than elaborate composed discourses, which, in those of a learned education, are, not seldom, quite above the level of ordinary capacities: such as the generality of our hearers must needs be. I also took care that my curate preached once a day at Kessingland, and once at Corton, a very poor, neighbouring, ignorant village, of hardly any revenues, and formerly abandoned to diversions on the Lord's days: while every month I gave them of Kessingland a sermon myself, in the morning, and a catechetick lecture in the afternoon. I also a little tried there to instruct the private families on week days at home; but found their heads and hands so engaged about their husbandry, that I could only do it in the evenings of Lord's days, when they were more at leisure. But I was soon recalled to Cambridge, to be Sir Isaac Newton's deputy, and afterwards his successor, in the beginning of this century, when I resigned my living; so I shall not enlarge further on my behaviour in that place. I shall only add to what is in my Life of Dr. Clarke (page 9, 1st edit.) these two facts, which I well remember to have happened to me while I lived at Lowestoft.

The parish officers came once to me to desire me to set my hand to a license for setting up a new alehouse in Lowestoft. The justices, it seems, paying that compliment to the town, as not to set it up, without the consent of the minister; and I suppose of the churchwardens, also. My answer was short. "If they would bring me a paper to sign to pull down an alehouse, I would certainly sign it; but I would never sign one to set up an alehouse." At another time there came to me an order from Mr. Bachelor, who then acted in the Ecclesiastical Court as deputy to Dr. Pepper, Chancellor of Norwich, for reading an excommunication against a woman of my parish, who, it seems, had called another woman, whore: these courts not being able to proceed, till such an excommunication is read in the parish church. Upon this I went and inquired of the sober people in the neighbourhood, whether this imputation was believed to be true or false? The answer was, that "the accuser might have kept her tongue between her teeth, yet they doubted the thing was too true." I then wrote to Mr. Bachelor that I was surprised to have an order for reading an excommunication against a poor woman for speaking what the sober people in the neighbourhood thought to be true. The answer was, *veritas convicii non excusat conviciantem*; a maxim of the modern Antichristian, but not of the ancient Christian law; of which, see my pamphlet of 'Christian Discipline,' page 63, 64. However, I never did read that excommunication; nor do such ecclesiastical courts generally do other than overturn all good order in matters of religion; excepting it were under such an

excellent Chancellor as Dr. Tanner, afterwards Bishop of St. Asaph, who was disposed to use his power more for the real advantage of good order and discipline, than any other in that office within my knowledge, till the nicety of some law of the land spoiled his designs for any further reformation.

Last, though not the least amongst the Lowestoft worthies, must be mentioned Messrs. Isaac and Edmund Gillingwater, the joint historians of their native town. Isaac was born on the 14th of April, 1732, and died on the 14th of May, 1813, aged 81. His brother Edmund was born on the 29th of December, 1736, and died a few months previous to Isaac. The materials for their history were collected by Isaac, who never rose above the humble occupation of a barber and hair-dresser in Lowestoft, but were cast into their present form, and published by Edmund Gillingwater, who was then a schoolmaster and bookseller at Harleston, in Norfolk. Though the preface to this work is dated from that town on St. Martin's Day, 1790, there is reason to believe it was not published till five years afterwards. The book is very voluminous, embracing a variety of extraneous, though interesting matter, and is become rather scarce. A copy, in good condition, was purchased a few years since by Edward Crowfoot, Esq., of Kessingland, at Canton, in China. The Gillingwaters lived in a house in the High Street, opposite to the old chapel, now the Town Hall. Its site was occupied by the identical house in which Oliver Cromwell abode during his sojourn at Lowestoft, and is now held by a Mr. Dye, a watchmaker.

NORMANSTON

is usually considered a Hamlet of Lowestoft, but there seems to be no authority for this; nor are there any defined limits to what may properly be so called. The mansion, known as Normanston House, commands a delightful prospect over Lake Lothing, and catches an extensive sea view to the south-east. But its retirement and many of its charms have been considerably deteriorated by the construction of the Lowestoft and Reedham Railway, and the admission of the sea into the lake, which renders the latter a tidal harbour. It is now the property of Edward Leathes, Esq., who is a magistrate for the county.

The parish of Lowestoft is of an irregular figure, and contains, according to the commutation map, 1485 acres, 3 roods, 31 perches. The portion of Lake Lothing, comprised in the bounds of the parish, amounts to 62 acres, 27 perches.

POPULATION OF LOWESTOFT.

On the 7th and 8th of August, 1775, the minister and churchwardens went through the parish and numbered the houses and inhabitants.

Houses occupied	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	438
Houses empty	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Houses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	445
Inhabitants and Lodgers	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2231
1801	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2332
1811	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3189
1821	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3675
1831	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4238
1841	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4832

Of these, 2154 were males, and 2678 were females: 193 men were that year engaged in the fisheries.

CHARITIES.

William French left £60, by will dated 1529, to buy free lands; with which 28½ acres were purchased, for the use of the poor. The profits of which lands were to be distributed after the following manner:— To thirteen poor people of the town of Lowestoft, 13*d.* every Sunday, and 3*s.* 4*d.* yearly to the churchwardens for their trouble. A decree in Chancery has ordered that the old manner of distribution shall be observed, but that, if the whole rent of this land shall amount to £20, it shall be disposed of among the poor. If it shall not amount to so much, then they shall distribute as much as it shall, after all charges, amount to. If it exceeds £20, the residue shall be distributed according to the intent of the donor.

The name of the person who gave 67 acres of land, divers tenements, a windmill, and dole land, for and towards the repairs and ornaments of the church, and about other necessary uses of the said town, is unknown, and was so, even in 1552, when John Jettor, the only surviving feoffee, made a new feoffment, on the 20th of June; who said that he, together with divers persons deceased, had them by the feoffment of Nicholas Hughson and William Fly, bearing date the 10th of November, 1503. A decree in Chancery has ordered, that if the whole rent of this land, &c., should amount only to £20, it shall all be laid out in the repairs and ornaments of the church. If there shall be £10 above the said £20, it shall be expended in apprenticing poor children; for a stock to set poor people on work, and such like good and godly uses. The residue of the rent, if any, shall be expended according to the true intent of the donor.

ANNOT'S SCHOOL.

Thomas Annot, merchant, who was born A. D. 1487, and died 15th November, 1577, aged 90 years, leaving no issue; by indre tripartite, bearing date the 10th of June, 1570, settled lands in Wheatacre Burgh, in Norfolk, for the payment of 20 marks, which were afterwards augmented by his assigns to £16 per an., to maintain one honest and sufficient person, learned in the art and knowledge of grammar, able to instruct and teach the Latin tongue, &c., to be known by the name of Mr. Annot's schoolmaster, who was to teach forty boys born within the town of Lowestoft, if there were so many wanting to be taught: and if not, then the number to be made up of those who live in the town, though not born there; and if

there be not so many of them either, then to be made up of any within the Half Hundreds of Mutford and Lothingland. But since the prices of all things are greatly altered since the first establishment, it was agreed in 1716, that the master should teach so many boys, as he received pounds clear; which amount, com. ann., the land tax deducted, to about £13. In 1591, it cost the town nearly £120 to defend their right to the school. The Chancellor of Norwich appoints the master.

Formerly there was a school-house for Annot's foundation in the town close, adjoining to the east wall of the church-yard, which becoming ruinous, an allowance was made to the master, until such time as the town chamber was fitted up, and made a convenient school-room.

James Wilde, in 1684, gave a large silver plate for the use of the communion table.

In the last will and testament of Mr. James Wilde, of Lowestoft, bearing date April 3, 1699, is this clause. Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my said son John, and his heirs, for ever, £15 of lawful English money, the interest of which, with the rent of the messuage or tenement and pightle, in the occupation of John Middleton, aforesaid, I will shall be for and towards the payment of the twelve loaves of bread given by my father, Mr. James Wilde, deceased, every Sunday, or Lord's day in the year, for ever, to the poor of Lowestoft: and for and towards the payment of six penny loaves more, being my own bequest, to be distributed in Lowestoft church after divine service in the forenoon, for ever.

Anne Girling, widow, of the parish of Lowestoft, left by will, bearing date 8th June, 1584, her barn-house, with a tenement adjoining, &c., copyhold of the manor of Lowestoft, unto feoffees only, to the use of the honest poor of Lowestoft, to be given them in wood, so far as the rent of the said barn and tenement, &c., will reach, yearly. So much to be yearly detained only as shall keep the same in repair. The barn-house and tenement have been many years decayed, and the ground on which they stood is supposed to be the garden to a house near the old market, late Mr. Thomas Smith's, and which pays to the town 5s. p. ann.

Jno. Crow, by will dated 22nd September, 1597, gave his house to Tho. Garrel, and the heirs of his body, and for want of such to William Bently, Nathaniel Arnold, &c., to bestowe half on y^e poor, and y^e other half upon the repair of the church.

James Hocker, a labourer, who died of the small-pox, in 1710, gave his all, about £120, with part of which a stone and brick house was bought, in the Fair Lane; and two houses in the same lane, lately part of the workhouse, were given to the poor by an unknown benefactor; as was a house towards the south end of the High Street.

John Hayward gave by will, in 1719, to the churchwardens, 52s. per an., to be given weekly to the poor in bread. The houses in the High Street, late belonging to Mr. Aldous Arnold, are secured for the payment thereof. Dorothy Mighells, widow, gave two silver flagons, weight 146 oz. 13 p., for the use of the communion table: the first, A. D. 1711, the second, A. D. 1735.

John Wilde gave by will, dated A. D. 1735, all his estate in Worlingham (see vol. i. p. 106), after the decease of Elizabeth Smithson, and also all his estate at Lowestoft, consisting of a house in the High Street, and fish-houses adjoining, a shop in the High Street, a meadow in the Mill Lane, a house called Rotterdam House, and six acres and a half of land; and appointed the minister and churchwardens for the time being, the trustees, with intent to have a grammar school, for forty boys, established in the town; and a sermon preached the 23rd December annually.

It appears by a letter dated December 18, 1720, that Mr. Symonds, of Yarmouth, charged his estate in Lowestoft with the payment of twenty shillings a year for fifteen years, to be laid out in the purchase of religious books, such as the minister of Yarmouth should think fitting, for the better encouragement of the Christian religion among the poor of Lowestoft.

The Rev. J. Troughton, formerly curate of the parish, and master of Annot's School, left, A. D. 1735,

£10, with which, and £10 more, given by the Rev. Mr. Tanner, a velvet pall was purchased, in 1737, and the profits arising from the use divided among the poor. Samuel Barker gave, A. D. 1758, a silver plate for the use of the communion table. Aldous Arnold gave, A. D. 1763, a silver cup and strainer for the use of the communion table.

Mr. John Barker was buried in Lowestoft church-yard on the 9th of November, 1787, when money, clothes, coals, &c., to the amount of £200, were distributed to the poor of Lowestoft, according to a clause in his will, in which also he desired his executors to cause a handsome monument to be erected over his vault, at a cost not exceeding £500; and further devised £1000, in the 3 per cents., in trust, the interest thereof to be expended in the repairs and maintenance of the said monument, and the overplus to be distributed annually in bread among the poor.

By an old rent-roll of the town lands of Lowestoft, leased from Michaelmas, 1756, for seven years, it appears that the estate produced an income of £93. 12s. Among the names of the tenants is that of Edmond Gillingwater, who held the land, Number 25, at a rental of ten shillings. This must have been the father of the historians. He died Sept. 27, 1772, aged 78.

In the year 1831, the following return was made of the state of education in this town.

Lowestoft Parish (Popⁿ. 4238).—*One Infant School* (commenced 1831), containing 100 children of both sexes, is partly supported by subscription, and partly by weekly payment of 1d. with each child.—*Twelve Daily Schools*: one whereof, founded and endowed by the late Mr. Wilde, for forty boys, with a salary for the master, and an allowance for books and stationery: in 1829 the trustees increased the number to sixty: the master is also allowed to take six others, who pay for their instruction. Another, called "Annot's School," containing forty males, is endowed with £16 per annum: the salary of the master is increased to £40 by a donation from the parish. Another (commenced 1831), containing seventy-four females, is partly supported by subscription, and partly by penny weekly payments from the children. Of the remaining nine schools, wherein the instruction is wholly at the expense of the parents, two contain thirty-five, and two others (commenced 1822), forty-five males: in the other five (mistresses' schools) are 116 young children of both sexes.—*Two Boarding Schools*, wherein forty-nine females are educated at the expense of their parents.—*Two Sunday Schools*, supported by voluntary contributions, and attended by 120 males and 85 females: these children are chiefly from the three daily schools first mentioned. There is a lending library formed for the use of the inhabitants in general; and it is observed that "the Charity Schools, which are chiefly directed by the Vicar, are all well conducted, and that there is no want of the means of education in the parish."



Roman Eagle found at Burgh Castle in 1822.

THE HUNDRED OF BLYTHING.



BLYTHING Hundred, which in Domesday Book is written Blidinga, derives its name from the river Blythe—the Saxon Blide,—which signifies the swift, or strong.¹ This river rises at Laxfield, near the western boundaries of the Hundred, and, flowing through the centre of the district, now discharges its waters into the sea at Southwold. Blything Hundred is bounded on the north by those of Mutford and Wangford; on the west by that of Hoxne; and on the south by the Hundred of Plomesgate, from which it is separated by a stream called the Hundred brook, but which is, in fact, the little river Alde. This takes its rise a few miles up the country at Aldringham, and gives name to that impoverished village. The eastern side of this subdivision of the county is washed through its entire length by the German Ocean, before whose encroachments it has progressively yielded from the remotest period of authenticated history; and if Saxton's map, drawn in 1575, may be relied on, has relinquished a strip of territory, since that comparatively modern era, of very nearly an average mile in width.

Until the reign of Edward I., the fee of this Hundred was in the Crown; but in the 9th of that monarch it was committed to Walter Buskyn, to be held during the royal pleasure, with that of "Weynefford," rendering therefrom the usual annual rent.² Edward afterwards exchanged these Hundreds with Sir John de Clavinger for his life, for the Castle of Warkworth, &c.,³ on whose decease they reverted to the Crown. Edward III. committed the custody of the Hundreds of "Blythyng and Weynford" to John de Wyngefeld, to be held during the pleasure of the Crown; the said John rendering to the King an annual rent of £38 for the same.⁴ The fee, however, remained as royal demesne, but was settled by Henry VIII. on Hugh ap Howel. The original document of conveyance is dated December 3rd, 1527. It grants the Hundreds of Blything and Wangford to the said Ap Howel, but extends only to the goods and chattels of felons, &c., fines, waifs, and estrays. These Hundreds having fallen to the Crown again, Blything was granted to Sir Edward Coke, the conveyance being dated the 31st of January, 1601. It is from Thomas Billott and Richard Langley, to whom the Hundred of Blything was granted on the previous day. This conveyance is not more extensive than the former. The tenendum in the conveyance to Sir Edward Coke is to hold to him in fee simple of the Queen, as of her manor of East Greenwich. This Hundred was afterwards conveyed, amongst divers other hereditaments, to Sir Joshua Vanneck, of Putney, in Surrey, Baronet, by a deed, dated 25th of March, 1752, and made between the Right Hon. Thomas, Earl of Leicester, and the Right Hon. Edward Coke, Esq., commonly called Lord Viscount Coke, only son of the said Earl of Leicester, of the one part; and Sir Joshua Vanneck, of the other part. Sir Joshua Vanneck devised the Hundred of Blything, inter alia, to his son, Sir Gerard William Vanneck, who devised the same estates to his brother, Joshua Vanneck, afterwards created Lord Huntingfield, who died 15th of August, 1816; and was succeeded, as to his title and estates, by his son Joshua, late Lord Huntingfield, who died in August, 1844, and was succeeded

¹ Skinner.² Rot. 2, an. 9 Ed. I.³ Vol. i. p. 1.⁴ Rot. 1, de an. Ed. III. nono.

by the Right Hon. Charles Andrew, the present Lord Huntingfield. The claim to fines within the Hundred of Blything, or rather the quietus thereon, is recorded in the great roll of the 13th of Elizabeth.

The Hundred of Blything contains the following parishes and hamlets, of which two only are market towns, namely, Halesworth and Southwold. The market at Dunwich has been discontinued.

Aldringham.	Dunwich.	Middleton.	Ubbeston.
Benacre.	Easton.	Peasenhall.	Uggeshall.
Blythburgh.	Fordley.	Raydon.	Walberswick.
Blythford.	Frostenden.	Rumburgh.	Walpole.
Bramfield.	Halesworth.	Sibton.	Wangford.
Brampton.	Henstead.	Sotherton.	Wenhaston.
Buxlow.	Heveningham.	Southwold.	Westhall.
Cheddiston.	Holton.	South Cove.	Westleton.
Cookley.	Huntingfield.	Speckshall.	Wisset.
Covehithe.	Knottishall.	Stoven.	Wrentham.
Cratfield.	Leiston.	Theberton.	Yoxford.
Darsham.	Linstead.	Thorington.	

HAMLETS.

Bulchamp.	Hinton.	Sizewell.	Westwood.
Henham.	Mells.	Thorpe.	

The whole Hundred is comprehended in the Deanery of Dunwich, except the parish of Aldringham, which, with its hamlet of Thorpe, is included in the Deanery of Hoxne.

The following warrant was issued in 1630 to the chief constables of this Hundred.

“Blything,

1630.

“Suffolk—Henry Bokenham, Knt., High Sheriffe of the said county, to the chief constables of the Hundred of Blything, and to every of them, greeting. By virtue of a warrant from Sir Lionel Talmash, Knt. and Baronet, Sir William Harvey, Sir William Spring, Sir Roger North, Knts., and Thomas Goodwin, Esq., his Majesties commissioners to me directed; I require you that forthwith after the rect hof you make warrant to the petty constables of every towne within the Hundred aforesd, commanding them to deliver unto his Majesties sd commissioners, at the house of Abraham Sadde, in Beccles, within the sd county, and upon the 15th day of September now next ensuing, a true certificate of the names and sirnames of all such persons as have forty pounds per annum, either in land or rent, although their lands be holden in socage, or of comon persons, or of the King by a meane tenure, or altho' the sd persons have but estate of freehold for lives; as also that you give notice to appeare before his Ma^{ties} sayd commissioners at the daye and place above sayd, all Baronets within the sayd Hundred—that were not knighted at the coronation; and likewise to all Knights in the sayde Hundred—that have receivved that order since the coronation; as also that you give knowledge to John Fisher, gent., baylife of the Liberty of Blything, that he be then and there likewise to attend the sayd commissioners, and bring with him the booke of the freeholders within the sayd Hundred, and also to give notice to the under-bayliefs of the s^d Hundred that they give their attendance and be ready to perform all such service, as by the s^d comissioners shall be required of them. And

further, these are to will and require you to give notice to the overseers of every parish within the s^d Hundred that they deliver unto the s^d comissioners at the daye and place afs^d the booke of collection for the poore, and also that you make request to the captains of every several troope or company within the s^d Hundred, to deliver unto you the muster roubles, that you may make return thereof to the sayd comissioners according to the direction of their warrant. And lastly, these are to will and require you to give knowledge unto all persons within the Hundred afs^d, whome these may any way concern, that if any of them shall make default in not appearing before the s^d comissioners, according to the tenour of his Ma^{ties} proclamation, that then the comissioners are to certifie those names in p^ticular unto the Lords of the counsell, who will immediately take such course as may best conduce to the furtherance of his Ma^{ties} service. These things I require you to performe with^t connivance or favour unto any; and that you be p^sent and assistant to the s^d comissioners, and likewise make retourne of this my warrant at the daye and place afores^d, where of faile you not as you tender the furtherance of his Ma^{ties} service, and will answer the contrary at your perill.

“ Given under my seale of office,
this 18 day of Aug. An. dom. 1630,
p. me EDM. DOVE, sub.

“ You must make warrant, as well to the chief constables in all towns corporate within the Hundred affores^d, as to all others, and if they shall refuse to make retourne, at their p^rl be it.

“ EDM. DOVE.”⁵

In 1635, the Hundred of Blything was rated at £ 773. 12s., towards the sum of £ 8000 charged upon the county of Suffolk for the support of a ship of 800 tons, manned by three hundred and twenty seamen.⁶ This is the heaviest levy made upon any Hundred in the county. Hartismere stands next in numerical amount, being rated at £ 618. 17s. 6d.; while the Half Hundred of Mutford was the lowest, being charged only £ 85. 19s. 1½d.

The subjoined illustration is from a seal in the possession of the Right Hon. the Lord Thurlow, who purchased it of a Mr. Last, a watchmaker, of Bury. The matrix is of brass.



S. REGIS. IN. COMIT. SVFF. HVNDR. DE. WAYNFORD.

In Gardner's History of Blythborough⁷ is the representation of what I take to be a similar seal for Blything Hundred, the legend of which is + HVHDRED OF BLYTHING, having a rose in the centre surmounted by a crown, between the letters M. C.

⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁶ MSS. Sir Symonds D'Ewes. Brit. Mus.

⁷ Page 130.

The bailiff of Blything had wreck of sea, in the king's name, in the town of Northales, from the port of Benacre to Southmeer.⁸ In the reign of Henry III., it was determined that the Hundreds of Blything and Mutford ought to repair Kessingland bridge, with the roads thereto.⁹

All the parishes in this Hundred, except Dunwich, were incorporated by Act of Parliament, in the 4th of Geo. III., for the maintenance of the poor; when a house was built at Bulchamp.

⁸ Inq. cap. 21, Hen. III.

⁹ Idem.

Aldringham.

ALDRINGHAM is a small decayed village lying at the extreme south-eastern angle of the Hundred of Blything, but included in the Deanery of Hoxne, in which Hundred it is accounted for in Domesday Book ; when it formed a portion of the great estates of Robert Mallet, lord of Eye.¹

In the reign of Edward I., it was still included by the Jurors of the Hundreds in that of Hoxne, who returned "It : Abb. de Leyston sub^ahit sectam de vill. de Aldringhm, que fuit de corpe hundr."² It was even then a place of inconsiderable value, and is not noticed as a manor ; neither can I satisfactorily trace any manorial privileges enjoyed by its owners at any period. The charters by which it is said that Hamo de Massey obtained license for a fair and market to be held here, clearly relate to his manor of Altrincham, in Cheshire, which was made a free borough in the reign of Edward I. This Hamo de Massey was lord of Tatton in Cheshire, and held the office of Escheator in that county, by grant of Edward III.³ The defence of his castle of Dunham Massey, in 1173, by his ancestor of the same name, is recorded among the heroic actions of that turbulent period ; but the family never possessed any interests here. Ralph de Glanville granted the impropriation of Aldringham, with divers rents and possessions, to his Abbey of Canons, which he founded at Leiston in 1182 ; and it is not improbable that the manorial rights of the parish were absorbed in these grants, though they are not expressly mentioned. In 1280 appears the confirmation of the chapel of Syswell, Aldringham, Middleton and Culpho, to the above establishment.⁴ But whatever was the extent of these possessions, they remained with the Abbey of Leiston till its dissolution, when they were granted, with all its appurtenances, to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.⁵ This nobleman, by indenture dated the 4th of April, 1537, demised unto William Stephenson, the parsonage of Aldringham, and the chapel of Thorpe thereunto annexed, with all manner of tythes, &c., from Michaelmas last past, before the date thereof, for sixty years next following ; yielding and paying yearly £ viij. vjs. viijd., and discharging the cure, and paying procurations and synodals, and bearing all manner of repair, &c.⁶

¹ Domesday, 310. ² Rot. Hundredorum, v. 2, p. 186. ³ Rot. Scac. de an. 6 Ed. III. Rot. 12.

⁴ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁵ Pat. 28 Hen. VIII.

⁶ MSS. Exchequer.

On the 5th of August, 1618, James I., by letters patent, granted to George, Marquis and Earl of Buckingham, the rectory of Aldringham and Thorpe, with all tithes thereunto belonging, late parcel of the possessions of Charles, Duke of Suffolk. In 1626, by indenture dated November 15th, George, Duke of Buckingham, sold the above premises to Price Williams and Anthony Nevill; and on the 27th of January, 1629, these parties, with Richard Miller, and Alice his wife, re-sold them to Daniel Eliab and Matthew Harvey, with a proviso to be void upon payment of £ 500. On the 20th of May, 1640, Sir Richard Miller released and confirmed the said premises to the said Daniel Eliab and Michael Harvey, and their heirs for ever. The heirs of these gentlemen held them in the early part of the following century; and in 1792, they were the property of Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart., whose descendant, the present Lord Huntingfield, is now their owner.

In 1703, the rectory of Aldringham cum Thorpe was let to Thomas Ingham, for £ 8. 6s. 8d., a year's taxes being £ 1. 12s.⁷ The benefice is considered a perpetual curacy only, and has been thrice augmented with £ 200. In the year 1745, that sum was laid out in the purchase of three pieces of land in St. Nicholas South Elmham, containing 13 acres, 2 roods, 32 perches; in 1772, and in 1789, with £ 200, in each of those years; which sum of £ 400 still remains in the hands of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty; for which interest is paid half-yearly, at 2 per cent. per annum. When this perpetual curacy was first augmented in 1745, the impropiator of the great tithes endowed it with £ 10 per annum, to be paid upon Michaelmas Day, from the great tithes, to the perpetual curate for ever.⁸ It is now united with the hamlet of Thorpe. The Abbey of Leiston had rents here to the value of £ 7. 11s. 2d.⁹

THE CHURCH,

dedicated to St. Andrew, is a small fabric, comprising a nave and chancel of the same width and height, without any aisles. It is, however, of considerable antiquity; for the chancel door, though finished externally with a pointed arch, presents a circular aperture in the interior; adjoining which is a narrow lancet window: an indication of having been erected at the period of transition from the Norman to the Early English style, which is of frequent occurrence in the Suffolk village churches. A wide buttress, which projects but slightly from the south wall, gave access, by stairs constructed in its thickness, to the rood-loft, of which no portion now remains; though parts of a handsome screen were standing a few years since. The octagonal font bears on its compartments symbols

⁷ Bailiff's act. for Leiston, 1703.

⁸ The endowment is lodged in the Augmentation Office.

⁹ Ex Chart. orig. Brit. Mus. H. 22.

of the apostles, with angels bearing shields. The interior is neat, and reputably kept; and a few old substantial seats of oak, the ends of which are carved in the late perpendicular style, occupy the nave. A lofty and substantial tower of flints was reared against the west end of the nave about the middle of the fifteenth century. Falling into decay, many years since, after having been shattered by lightning, the north wall only with the buttress at its angle remained to brave the elements, and tell of its original proportions. But even this is now prostrate; its very foundations razed, and its fragments employed in re-edifying the western wall of the nave; into the façade of which has been inserted an ample window in the perpendicular style, corresponding with that which occupies the chancel end. There is no sepulchral memorial within the church.

The registers commence, as I am informed, in 1538, but I am unable to offer any certain returns of the extent of the village, or amount of its commutation, my inquiries on this subject not being replied to. The labours and difficulties of a county history are greatly increased when an author is refused a civil answer to a civil letter. Happily such discourtesy is of rare occurrence, though it sometimes does occur. In Dr. Wake's "History of Southwold and its Vicinity," the parish of Aldringham is said to comprise 610 statute acres.

PERPETUAL CURATES OF ALDRINGHAM CUM THORPE.

Curates.	Date.	Patrons.
Nicholas Stevenson	1593	
Joës Kellye	1604	
Michael Connop	1613	
James Carter		
James Benet (sequestrator) . .	1781	
William Wynne	1792	Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart.
Anthony Collett	1800	Lord Huntingfield.
Richard Bond	1838	John Moseley, and others.

Abbas de Layston habet eccliam in proprios usus. Estimatio illius xij marc. Procuratio vij^s. Synodalia per ann. xvj^d. Denarij S. Petri vij^{ob}. Norwich Domesday.

Population in 1841,—401; including 142 souls, resident in the hamlet of Thorpe.

Benacre.

IN Benagra one socman held ten acres under the Abbot of Bury, valued at xvi pence.¹ Such is the brief notice of this village in our great national record. The principal estate here was, however, possessed in the eleventh century by Godefridus de Petro Ponte, or Pierpoint, the same knight who held Henstead under William de Warren.² This fact, and the extensive privileges enjoyed by this family, are shown by the returns of the Hundred Rolls, wherein it is recorded that Robert de Pierpoint had free-warren at Wrentham, Henstead, and Benacre, with the right of gallows, and wreck of sea, in the latter parish, as his ancestors had enjoyed from the Norman Conquest.

Itm Robts de Pet^a. pont. ht warr. apd Wrentham, Henestede, et Benakr, et furk. apd Benakr, et wreck. maris, sicut ancessor. sui huert de cōqstū angl.³

In the twenty-first of Henry III., Simon de Pierpoint had wreck of sea in this village, "a portu de Kessingland usq. ad portū de Benacre."⁴ With this family the manor and advowson of Benacre remained about three hundred years. In 1409, Sir William Bowitt, and Joan his wife, presented to the church; and in 1434, Thomas, the eldest son of Thomas, Lord Dacre, was lord and patron. This Thomas died in the lifetime of his father, leaving Joan, his daughter and heiress, who married Richard Feines, afterwards summoned to Parliament as Baron Dacre. Their successors held this property till the thirteenth of Queen Elizabeth, when George Feines, Lord Dacre, was returned as holding the manor and advowson of Benacre, with their appurtenances, of the Queen, in capite, with license of alienation to Roger Manwood, and others.⁵ In 1577, John Whinburgh, Gent., of Norfolk, was lord of Benacre; his arms were, per fess indented arg. and sab. three bears passant, counterchanged.⁶ Just before this period, in 1576, we find the following particulars of this manor:

Benacre p pounds.	
Tenants there free	5
bonde by copie	23
Acars of demeans	238
Acars of bond tennor	426
waste soile	238
Sume of the yearllie rents	£xxij. xij ^s .

The patronage and gifte of the parsonage of Benacre is incident to the said manor, and in the lordes dyspocion and gifte, as often as yt shall fall and been voyde, &c., and is valewed in the Queen's Maties bookes per ann. xvij £. To the same manor belongeth the wrake for the space of a myle longe, by the seas syde; viz. from the ryver of Kessyngelonde Havene unto the bounds of North Halles, which is the lord's inheritance, and happeneth manye times to be verie profitable to the lorde. In this maner

¹ Domesday, 371 b.

² Idem, 399 b.

³ Rot. Hund.

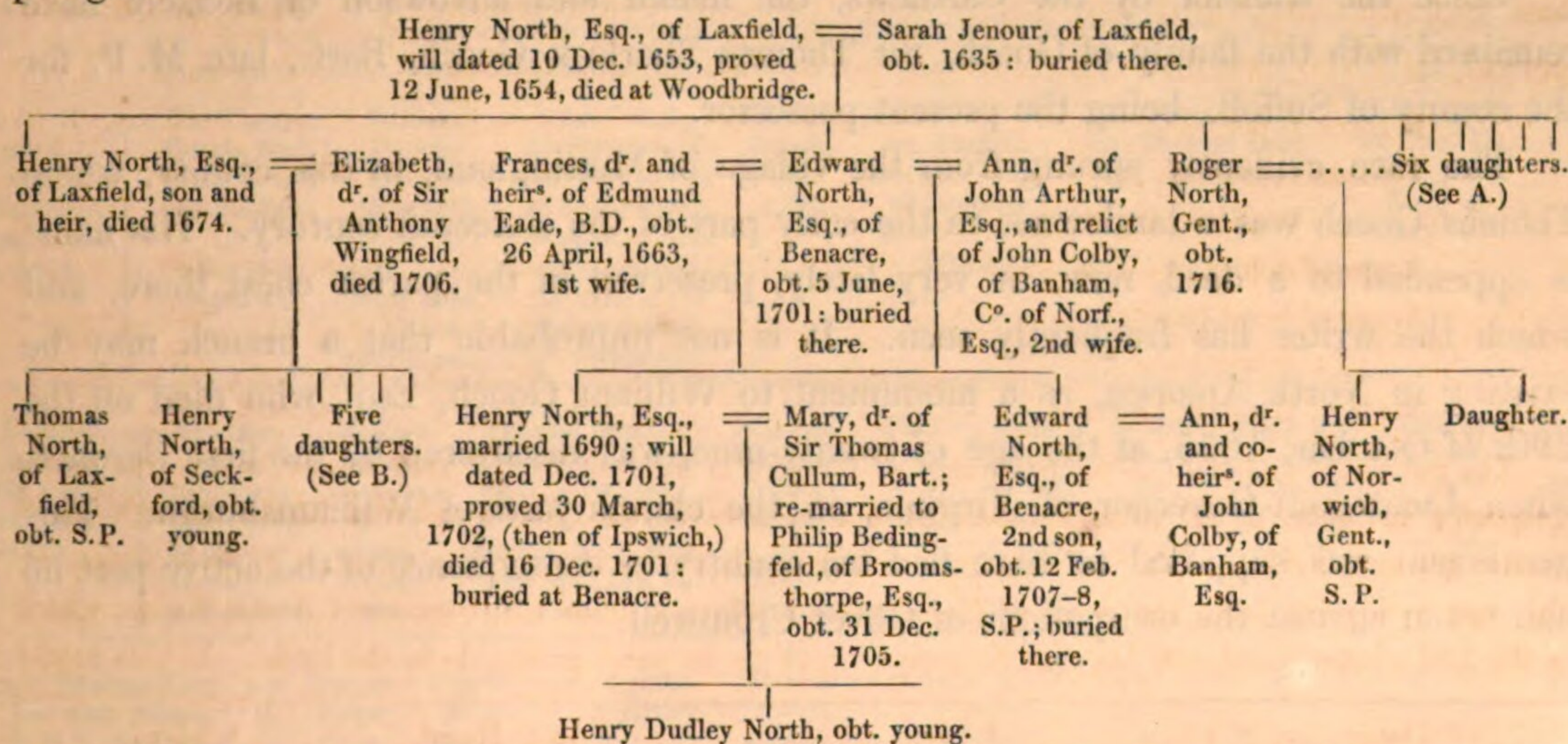
⁴ Idem.

⁵ Harl. MSS. 1232.

⁶ Blomefield.

are two leases; viz. the lorde's free-warren, containing by estimation cc acres of heath and pasture now replenyshed with v hundred shepe, or thereabouts, and some conyes; and leased out at this present for six yeares yet to come; and the fearme thereof, by the yeare is vj £. The other lease, p cell also of this manor, is called the Rede fenne, and contayneth by estimation lxx acres of rede and ryshes, maryshe, and the fyshin places, and is presentlye letten nowe owt by lease for vi yeares yet to come for liij^s. iiij^d. per ann. Also to the same manor doth belong a lete and a court baron, with all the profyghts of all things belonging to the same. To the same manor dothe belonge xxviij tenants, and the manor dothe consiste of the moste parte of the inclossars and severalties, and the number of trees now growing upon the same manor are two hundred, and are of all sortes, which also are not herein valued. Neyther is there any of all the waste soyle valued in the particularities, neyther yet doth any rent or service go owte to the Queene's majesty or any other. Moreover the fynnes and other p fights of the courtes are yearllie as p fitable to the lord as the rents of assizes are, or rather better. Also at every alienacion and chaunge, the tenants are to fynne at the lord's wyll and plesure for their several holdings. The free tenants doe service of courte, fealtie, rente, relief, and some of them warde, marriage, and hariet.⁷

We presume this valuation was made just previous to the sale of the estate to Mr. Whinburgh. In the reign of Charles I., the manor and advowson of Benacre were purchased by Henry North, Esq., of Laxfield, the second son of Sir Henry North, of Mildenhall, in the county of Suffolk, Knt., descended from the Lord North of Catlidge in Cambridgeshire, whose issue spread themselves into several considerable branches, and settled in Finborough, Laxfield, and Mildenhall. The Suffolk branches bore, azure, a lion passant in fess or, between three fleurs-de-lis argent. Henry North, Esq., the purchaser of Benacre, married Sarah, the daughter and heiress of John Jenour, of Laxfield, Esq., and bequeathed this manor to his second son, Edward. The descent and alliances of this family, as connected with Benacre, will appear by the following pedigree:



⁷ MSS.^o Jermyn and Davy, from Bence Papers.

(A.) The six daughters of Henry North, Esq., and Sarah his wife, were, Elizabeth, who died young; Mary, married to Francis Nicholson, of the county of Essex; Sarah, married to William Bright, Esq., of Bricet; Dorothy, married to Thomas Meadows, of London, Gent.; Elizabeth, married to R. Claxton, of Pulham; and Ann, who died young.

(B.) The five daughters of Henry North, Esq., and Elizabeth Wingfield, were, Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Carey, of Halesworth, Gent.; Anne, the wife of Nicholas Freeman, of Wisset, Gent.; Dorothy, the wife of J. Humphries, of Spexhall, Clerk; Martha, who died unmarried in 1717; and Sarah, who also died single in 1689.

Under the will of the last Edward North, dated 10th of February, 1707-8, and after the decease of Ann his widow, the manors of Woodbridge and Benacre came to his nephew, Thomas Carthew, of the Inner Temple, Esq., eldest son of Thomas Carthew, Esq., of Cannaligee and Carthew, in St. Issey, county Cornwall, Serjeant-at-Law, by Mary his wife, the other daughter and coheiress of John Colby, Esq. Mr. Carthew built the hall at Benacre, and after his death, this estate was sold by his widow and son to Thomas Gooch, Esq., for £15,800, in 1743. Mr. Gooch, afterwards Sir Thomas, added the wings to the house. The manor of Easton Bavent, purchased in 1718 by Mr. Carthew of the heiress of Jeffry Howland, Esq., who married the Duke of Bedford, was included in Mr. Gooch's purchase.⁸ The further pedigree of Carthew will be more appropriately introduced under Woodbridge. It may, however, be stated that Thomas Carthew, Esq., of Benacre, was High Steward of the borough of Southwold, and editor of a volume of 'Reports of Cases in the King's Bench,' collected by his father, the Serjeant.

Since the transfer by the Carthews, the manor and advowson of Benacre have remained with the family of Gooch, Sir Thomas Sherlock Gooch, Bart., late M.P. for the county of Suffolk, being the present possessor.

The race evidently sprung from the village of Mettingham, in this county, where Thomas Gooch was a landowner in the early part of the sixteenth century. His name is appended to a deed, now, or very lately, preserved in the parish chest there, and which the writer has frequently seen. It is not improbable that a branch may be existing in North America, as a monument to William Gooch, Esq., who died on the 29th of October, 1655, at the age of twenty-nine, was discovered by the first Baronet, when Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, in the church-yard of Williamsburgh. This gentleman was supposed to have fled his country in consequence of the active part he had taken against the usurpations of Oliver Cromwell.

⁸ MSS. G. Carthew, Esq., of East Dereham.

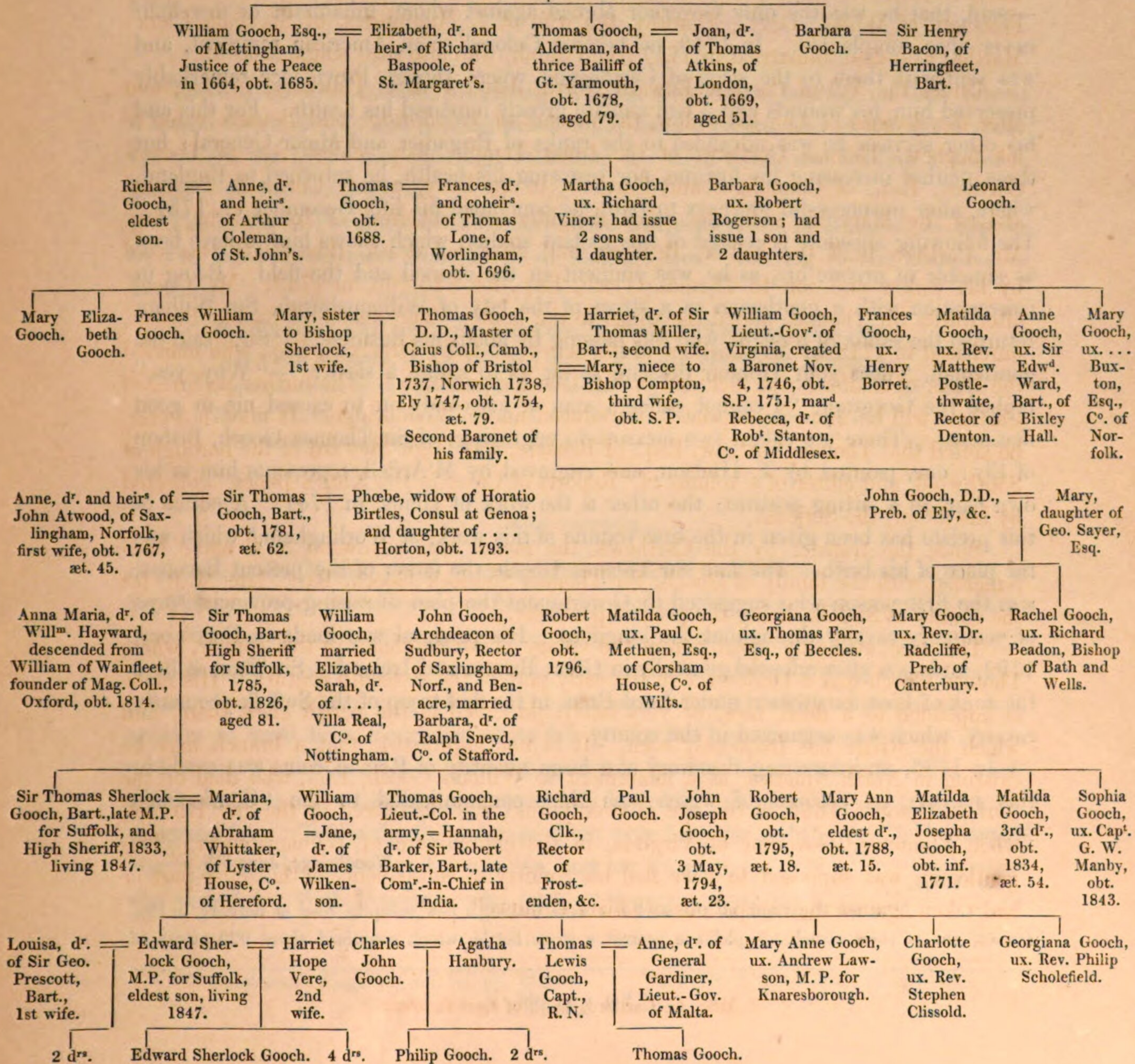


Gooch.

Thomas Gooch, of Mettingham, witness to a deed dated there in 1537, relating to the Town land.

Robert Gooch, of Bungay.

William Gooch, = Martha, daughter of Christopher Layer, Esq., of Norwich.



Sir William Gooch, the first Baronet of this family, was born at Yarmouth on the 21st of October, 1681, and lies buried in St. Nicholas' Church in that town. His monument tells us "He went young into the army, and behaved gallantly during all Queen Anne's wars; at the end of which he married Mrs. Rebecca Staunton, of Hampton, Middlesex. With her he retired, but not till after he had loyally assisted in subduing the rebellion in Scotland, in 1715. In 1727, the King made him Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, and of him it was justly—and what could be better—said, that he was the only Governor abroad against whom, inhabitant or merchant never once complained. In 1740, he became Colonel of an American regiment, and was sent with them to the siege of Carthagera, where, though Providence remarkably preserved him, his wounds and a bad climate greatly impaired his health. For this and his other services he was advanced to the ranks of Brigadier and Major-General: but these neither increasing his fortune, nor restoring his health, he returned to England, where, after unsuccessful journeys to Bath, he concluded his life, December 17, 1751." The following anecdote is related of this gallant soldier, which shows him to have been as amiable in private life, as he was eminent in the council and the field. Being in conversation with a gentleman in a street of the city of Williamsburgh, Sir William returned the salute of a negro, who was passing by about his business. "Sir," said the gentleman, "does your Honour descend so far as to salute a slave?"—"Why, yes," replied the Governor, "I cannot suffer a man of his condition to exceed me in good manners." There are extant two mezzotinto engravings of Sir Thomas Gooch, Bishop of Ely: one, painted by T. Hudson, and engraved by M'Ardell, represents him in his own hair, in a sitting posture; the other is the work of Heins, in 1741. A notice of this prelate has been given in the first volume of this work, at Worlingham,⁹ which was the place of his birth. The late Sir Thomas Gooch, the father of the present Baronet, was the first person who suggested to Government the plan of raising provincial corps of yeomanry cavalry throughout the kingdom. His proposal was made in December, 1792, and soon after adopted generally in Great Britain and Ireland. Sir Thomas bore the rank of First Lieutenant under Lord Rous, in the first troop of the Suffolk yeomanry cavalry, which was organized in the county.

In 1786, an interesting discovery of a large quantity of Roman coins was made in this parish; an account of which was thus communicated to the 'Gentleman's Magazine.'

Woodbridge, June 5th.

Mr. Urban,

"A few days ago, as the workmen were making a new turnpike road at Benacre, in this county, one of them struck his pick-axe against a stone bottle, which contained about 920 pieces of

⁹ Vol. i. p. 106.

silver coin of Julius Cæsar, supposed by the date to have been hid there 1500 years."—*Ipswich Journal*, May 27.

I wrote to a friend on this subject, who informed me that the coins alluded to were, in general, in good preservation, and included a large series—some few before Domitian. They were all about the size of a sixpence; nine of them weighing an ounce; and that Sir Thomas Gooch purchased near 700. Some were bought by different persons, and the remainder sold to a Jew, who retailed them at a low price, in the neighbourhood. Impressions of Aurelian, Germanicus, and Nerva Trajanus, are in my possession, drawings of which I have sent, if you think proper to give them a corner in a miscellaneous plate.

Yours, &c. R. L.¹⁰

These coins were denarii, principally of Nero, and Trajan, bearing on their reverse a female figure sitting, and holding in her right hand a patera, and in her left a spear. On others, the figure was standing, extending her right hand, and holding a spear in her left—at her feet a globe.

The family of Poynings must formerly have had possessions in Benacre, as appears by the following extracts from a roll of knight's fees¹¹ relating to the Hundred of Blything.

Dns Ponynge, Chr. ten. in Benacre, Cove, Northales, et Wrentham, di. f. mil.	
de Com. Warrenne, de j f. mil. et j qtr̄ f. mil. que Michail de Ponynge	
quond. tenuit in vill. pdcis de Com. Warrenne	iijs. iiij ^d .
Dns de Dacre, ten. in eisd̄m vill. di. f. mil. de pdco Dno de Ponynge, qd Eva	
de Tateshale nup. tenuit de pfat. Miche	iijs. iiij ^d .

THE CHURCH,

dedicated to St. Michael, was so completely re-edified in 1769 at the sole expense of Sir Thomas Gooch, as to leave very little of its ancient character apparent at the present day. It consists of a nave and chancel of good proportions, of which, the former is divided from a south aisle by an arcade of six pointed arches, resting on octangular pillars of very slender proportion. The old square tower, which contains one bell, appears to have been "curtailed of its fair proportion" at the time when the church underwent its repairs; the upper compartment having been removed. The whole interior is neat and reputable, and apparently in sound condition. It contains a good octagonal font. Before the Reformation, there were here the guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary; a chapel dedicated to her worship, and her image in the chancel.¹² This church was visited by Will. Dowsing, who says—"Benacre, April the 6th. There was six

¹⁰ Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lvi. pp. 472-3.

¹¹ Pen. W. S. Fitch, Esq., of Ipswich.

¹² MSS. Reg. Norwic.

superstitious pictures, one crucifix, and the Virgin Mary twice, with Christ in her arms, and Christ lying in the manger, and the three kings coming to Christ with their presents, and St. Catharine twice pictured; and the priest of the parish (M.S. blotted)—*Materna Johannem Christi gubernat*. O Christ, govern me by thy mother's prayers! And three bishops with their mitres, and the steps to be levelled within six weeks. And eighteen Jesus's written in capital letters on the roof, which we gave order to do out; and the story of Nebuchadnezzar; and *Orate pro animabus*, in a glass window." On hatchments placed against the west wall are the following arms:

1. Gooch with an inescutcheon; az. a bend arg. impaling gules a fess between 3 plates.
2. Gooch with an inescutcheon; quarterly, first and fourth, gules a lion ramp. arg.; the field replenished with acorns or; Atwood: second and third, arg. 3 battle-axes sab.
3. Gooch, with an inescutcheon; quarterly, first and fourth, arg. on a pale gules, 3 crescents of the field; second and third, erm. fretty sab. on a chief of the second, 3 fleurs-de-lis arg.

Edmundus Calthorpe, rector ecclie de Benacre p. test. suum dat. die prox. ante fest. Sci. Barthi. apli, et prob. j die Sept. a^o 1383, legat corpus suum ad sepeliend. in cancello Sci Michs de Benacre antedicta.

Monuments.—North Carthew, the only son of Thomas Carthew, Esq., and Sarah his wife, died September 9, 1716, aged 5 years, &c. Arms, Carthew, or, a chev. sab. between 3 murrets proper.—John and Catharine, children of Thomas Carthew, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife, died infants, 1775.—Thomas North Carthew, and Edward Carthew, the one in the 7th, the other in the 3rd year of his age, being the only surviving sons of Thomas Carthew, Esq., and Sarah his wife, died, the former on the 21st, the latter on the 23rd of May, 1726.—Sarah Carthew, daughter of Sir Thomas Powys, Knight, sometime a judge of the Queen's Bench, and wife of Thomas Carthew, Esq., by whom she had four sons and as many daughters: all the sons God was pleased to deprive them of;—of whom the youngest, who died together with her at his birth, lies interred in the same grave: the daughters, Ann, Mary, Elizabeth, and Sarah, still survive with their unhappy father, always to lament so great a loss: she died 17th August, 1727, æt. 39. Arms, Carthew quartered with Colby, imp. Powys, or, a lion's gamb in bend, erased gu. between 2 cross-crosets of the last.—Mary Carthew, widow and relict of Thomas Carthew, of Carralidgy in the county of Cornwall, Serjeant-at-Law, and daughter and coheir of John Colby, of Banham, in Norfolk, Esq., by whom she left two sons, Thomas and John, died June 15, 1726, æt. 69.

Francisca, uxor Eduardi North, arm. et heres, filiaq. unica Edmundi Eade, S.T.B., similiter et inclitæ illæ, et antiquæ familiæ de Tylneii, obiit April 26, 1663, æt. 30. Arms, North.—Eduard. North de Benacre, armig. fil. natu minor.—Eduardi North, arm. nobili stirpe Dominorum North oriundi, morti succubuit 12 die Feb. 1707-8,

æt. 44. Uxorem duxit Annam, filiam et cohæredem Johannis Colby, Armig.—Henry North, son of Edward and Francisca North, died December 16, 1701, æt. 40.—Mary, wife of Philip Bedingfeld, of Broomesthorpe, in Norfolk, Gent., who was the relict of Henry North, Esq., died December 31, 1705.—Edward North, Esq., died June 5, 1701.—Anna, widow of Edward North, died May 25, 1720, æt. 61.—Dorothy, the daughter of Thomas Meadows, died January 6, 1707, æt. 50.—Dorothy, the relict of Thomas Meadows, late of London, Gent., and the daughter of Henry North, formerly of Laxfield, Esq., died August 13, 1707, æt. 75. Arms,—Meadows, sab. a chev. erm. between 3 pelicans vulning themselves: on a canton . . . a talbot pas. . . .

Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart., who by the universal benevolence of his disposition was deservedly the object of general esteem, died at Tunbridge Wells, September 10, 1781, aged 62. Of his sincere piety, and zeal in the promotion of religion, his rebuilding this church, as well as his uniform practical piety, are the best memorials.—Dame Anne, his wife, died April 1, 1767, aged 45.—Sir Thomas Gooch, their son, died April 7, 1826, aged 81, who, during a residence of upwards of fifty years in this parish, uniformly administered to the wants and comforts of its inhabitants.—Dame Anna Maria, wife of Sir Thomas Gooch, died September 28, 1814, aged 72.—Louisa Anna Maria, wife of Edward Sherlock Gooch, Esq., died 24th February, 1838.—Matilda, third daughter of Sir Thomas Gooch, died 17th May, 1834, aged 58.—John Joseph Gooch, Esq., third son of Sir Thomas Gooch and Dame Anna Maria his wife, died of a consumption at Clifton, 3rd May, 1794, aged 23, and was interred in the Cathedral at Bristol.—Dame Phœbe Gooch, widow, and second wife of Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart.; who was also the widow of Horatio Birtles, consul at Genoa; died 1st June, 1793, aged 55.—Mary Anne Gooch, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Gooch and Anna Maria his wife, died of a consumption, aged 15, July 24th, 1788.—Robert, their son, died 16th May, 1795, aged 18.—Matilda Elizabeth Josepha, daughter of Thomas and Anna Maria Gooch, died June 19th, 1771, an infant.—Catharine, daughter of Sir Thomas Gooch and Dame Anna Maria, died April 6th, 1786, an infant; Miss Gooch, died September 13th, 1760, aged 14.

The benefice is a rectory, consolidated with Easton Bavent, and Northales, alias Covehithe, 24th June, 1749. The registers commence in 1727.

RECTORS OF BENACRE.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John le Savage	1331	Simon de Perpoint, Knt.
John of Newton	1349	Id.
John Serjaunt	1357	Nich ^s . Perpoint, de Com. Sussex.
John of Norton		
Henry Talbot	1370	Eliz., relict of John Perpoint.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John Martyn	1371	Eliz., relict of John Perpoint.
Edmund de Calthorp	1379	Ead.
Richard Grey	1383	Ead.
Robert Bowet	1409	Will. Bowet, Knt., and Joan his wife.
Richard Rug	1416	John Heveningham.
Robert Bowet	1418	William Bowet.
William Wall	1419	John Heveningham.
William Rosille	1434	Tho. fil. primog. Thæ. Dñi Dacre.
William Brademedede	1453	Tho. Dacres, Knt.
John Prentyce	1473	Robt. Fenys, Knt.
William Styward	1478	Id.
John Stannard	1480	Id.
William Penne	1481	Id.
Robert Prowet	1482	Id.
Robert Reman	1504	Robt. Fenys, Knt.
Roger Bradley	1504	Tho. Fenys, Dñs Dacre.
Thomas Cokke	1509	
Edward Cooper	1528	Id.
Henry Sutton	1549	The King.
William Bottiswaine	1550	Id.
Thomas Humfry	1554	Id.
Robert Openshaw	1575	Assig . . . Fynes Dñi. Dacre.
Robert Hewetson	1577	W ^m . Playters, Esq., and Hump. Yermouth.
Henry Gold	1588	Hump. Yermouth, Esq.
Robert Gold	1588	Id.
Thomas Darley	1595	Id.
Nathaniel Roe	1614	Id.
William Raymond	1645	Henry North, Esq.
William Sudbury	1646	Id.
Thomas Woods		
Alexander Kirby	1661	Edward North, of Laxfield, Esq.
Edward Willan	1667	Id.
Jos. Hudson	1671	Id.
Christopher Eachard	1677	Id.
John Hill	1690	Id.
Thomas Meadows	1701	Henry North, Esq.
Edward North	1742	Eliz. Carthew, widow.
Charles Davy	1766	Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart.
John Gooch	1776	Id.
William Gooch	1823	Id.
William Gooch, 2nd time	1835	Sir Thomas Sherlock Gooch.

Estimatur ad xx marc. Estimatio vicariæ ejusdem vij marc. Consoliduntur procuratio vij^s. vi^d.
 Synodalia pro termino S. Mich^s. xij^d., et pro termino Pascha xij^d. Denarii S. Petri non habentur in
 registro Dñi Archini Suffolciæ.

Benacre contains about 2400 acres, according to the recent surveys, of which twenty-four are glebes. About 100 acres are comprised in the Broad.

The commutation in lieu of tithes amounts to £ 354; and the population in 1841 was returned at 194 souls. The above returns are not framed from the parish map, of which the writer could obtain no inspection, but are believed to be correct.

Blythborough.

THIS is the Saxon burgh, or encampment, on the river Blythe, and its name alone remains to prove that it ever enjoyed the dignity of a Roman station; while the isolated fragment of its monastery, and its splendid church, mouldering into ruin, tell a mournful tale of its fallen fortunes, its depopulation and decay.

Before the Norman Conquest, King Edward the Confessor held "Blideburc" for one manor. There were then five carucates and fifteen acres of land; always eight villeins, thirty-nine bordarii, and one slave. The five carucates, with one plough, were then held in demesne, but when Roger Bigot received the manor (for the King), there were only three bordarii; and at the time of the Survey, their number was the same. The tenants always kept twenty-one ploughs: they had wood sufficient to maintain forty swine, and six acres of meadow, and seven socmen with their customary services: these always held three carucates and eighty-four acres, and sixteen bordarii who kept nine ploughs. There was, also, a market; wood for thirty swine, and two acres of meadow. To this manor belonged the fourth penny of the toll of the park at Riseburc (Risby), which the King and the Earl divided.¹ The entire manor rendered in the Confessor's time £ 30 by tale, and one day's honey, with all customary dues. But when Roger Bigot received it, the manor paid £ 50 by weight; but at the Survey £ 23 only, by weight. The church at Blythborough possessed two carucates of land, with nine villeins and four bordarii. In the Confessor's time there was one carucate of this held in demesne, but at the Norman Survey only half a carucate. Then four ploughs were kept by the tenants, but at the latter-mentioned period they had only one. The wood was sufficient for the maintenance of twenty swine, and

¹ Mr. Gardner, in his 'History of Blythborough,' page 120, translates this passage—"de censu de heia de riseburc"—"the fourth penny of the toll of Eye and Riseburgh;" which is clearly a mistake. The word heia, or haia, is of frequent occurrence in Domesday Book. "Haia in qua capiebant feræ," &c. It signifies an enclosed or paled part of a wood, viz. sepes, sepementum, vel parcus.

there was half an acre of meadow. It paid ten thousand herrings in Saxon times, but at the Survey fifty shillings and three thousand herrings. Osborn Mascles held this property as an eleemosynary gift of the King. Two other churches belonged to this church, which were unendowed. The manor of Blythborough also extended into Huntingfield and Cratfield, in each of which villages it claimed forty acres of land, and other possessions.² Such is the detailed account of Blythborough in our earliest national record; from which it is evident that it was then a village of considerable wealth and importance: even "in the most high and palmy state" of Dunwich, if a thief were taken in that city, though his trial was conducted there, his punishment was inflicted at Blythborough, where, before the Conquest, the only 'cambitor,' or money-changer, resided.³

Roger Bigot held the manor of Blythborough as steward of the Crown,⁴ but not in his own right, or in capite of the King. Stephen, by charter, conferred it on John Fitz-Robert, who was undoubtedly one of his partisans, and possibly father to John Fitz-Robert, one of the twenty-five Barons appointed to enforce the observance of Magna Charta.

Stephanus, Rex Anglie, archiepis, epis, abb. com. justic. vic. baron. ministris, et omnibus fidelibus suis Francie et Anglie totius Angl. saltm. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Johi, filio Robti, hereditur maner. meum de Blithburghe, cum omnibus que ad maner. illud pertinet, cum Hundredo, et præter hoc, do ei, et concedo bercariam meam de mille ovibus, quam habui in me dnio inter Norwic et Jernemutha, et dnio marisco meo que pertinet ad bercariam meam supra nominatam de mille ovibus. Quare volo, et firmiter præcipio, quod idem Johes, fil. Roberti, et heredes sui teneant et habeant hec prædicta de me, et heredibus meis in pace, liberè et quiete, in bosco, et plano, in pratis, pascuis, et pasturis, in quibz et in marisc in molen. et stangnis, in viis, et in semit. et in omnibus aliis locis, et reddit. cum soca et saca, tol, et them, et infangthef, et cum omnibus aliis libertat. et quietacoibz que ad hec prædict. pert. cum quibus illas habui dum facerunt in man. meum, &c.

Henry II., the opponent and successor of Stephen, in all probability resumed his predecessor's grant, for by him this manor was settled on his mother, the Empress Maud, who enjoyed its revenues during her life. On her decease, this monarch bestowed it with very ample privileges on William de Norwich, or de Cheney, as is proved by the following charter.

Henricus, Rex Anglie, Dux Normannie et Aquitanie, Comes Andegavie, Archiepiscopus, Episcopis, Abbatibus, Comitibus, Justiciariis, Baronibus, Vicecomitibus, Ministris, et omnibus fidelibus suis Francis et Anglicis, totius Anglie, salutem. Sciatis me dedisse, et concessisse et confirmasse Willimo de Norwico manerium de Blieburgh, cum omnibus pertinentibus suis, sibi et heredibus suis ad tenendum de me et de meis heredibus in feod. et hereditat. per servitium unius militis; quare volo et firmiter præcipio,

² Domesday. Terra Regis.

³ Idem.

⁴ Terra Regis de Regione qua. Roger. bigot servat. In Sudfulc. Domesday, fol. 281 b.

quod ipse Willimus, heredes sui, illud manerium totum habeant et teneant in pace, libere, quiete, et honorifice, cum sacco et socco, toll, team, infangenethef, cum omnibus aliis libertatibus, liberis consuetudinibus, quietanciis suis, cum quibus illud tenebam in meo dominio, in bosco, et plano, in pratis et pasturis, et mercatis, et turbariis; et in omnibus locis, et in omnibus rebus, per predictum servitium unius militis. Testibus. Rog. Ebor. Archipo. R. Linc. Epo. Hil. Archiepo. H. Dunelm Epo. T. Cant. Will. Com. de Aubeni, R. com. de Clara. Com. Alber. H. de Essex, Const. Ric. de Hum. Const. M. Bisdap. War. fil. Gercam. W. fil. Ha. apud Lincol.⁵

King Henry also granted this knight a license for a weekly market at Blythborough to be kept on Thursdays, and for three annual fairs. In the charter by which these privileges were obtained, and which will be recited hereafter, a market is said to have been held from the remotest period, "a tempore quo non currit memoria."

De Cheney died seized of this manor,⁶ which fell, on his death, to Margaret, his daughter, who married, first, Hugh de Cressi, and afterwards Robert Fitz-Roger, who each enjoyed this lordship in her right. This Margaret, or Margery de Cheney, had free-warren, and wreck of sea, from "Eycliffe juxta Southwolde" to the port of Dunwich, and a ferry-boat there, with privilege to exact a half-penny for every man and horse passing over the same. She had likewise customary travers for passage through Blythburgh and Walberswick, viz.: for each loaden carriage shod with iron, one penny, and without, a half-penny. The tenants of the said Margaret were enjoined to keep Walberswick bridge—which has long been demolished—in good repair; as well as the common high-way for foot and horse in Blythburgh. By covenant with this lady, Dunwich gave license to the towns of Blythburgh and Walberswick to occupy any number of merchant ships or fishing-boats they thought fit, paying certain customs thereon. Her second husband received an increase on these tolls, that is, for every wheeled carriage shod with iron, and loaded with corn or fish, passing through Blythborough or Walberswick, two-pence, and for every horse carrying the same, a half-penny, and the like sum for every carriage with wheels not shod with iron.⁷ This Robert Fitz-Roger had £xij rent in Blythburgh in the year 1201.⁸

Margaret de Cheney left issue by both her husbands. By Hugh de Cressi, she had a son Roger, who, in the first year of King John's reign, married Isabel, youngest

⁵ Gardner, who quotes from the collections of J. Hare, Esq., Richmond.

⁶ "Dicūt et qd. manium de Bliburg fuit donic manium. Reg. Hen. pris Reg. Joh. et ipe dedit ipm manium Willo de Cheney, et hered. suis p. feod. uni feod. milit. &c.; et qd. ipe Will. tenuit ad totam vitam sua, et sic descendebat de herede in heredem usq: ad Robm filiū Roger, qui modo ipm tenet." Rot. Hund.

⁷ Plita cor. an. 15 Ed. I.

⁸ Rot. Pip. 3 Johan. m. 18.

daughter and coheiress of Hubert de Rye, with whom he had seventeen fees and a half, as her moiety of the barony of Rye.⁹ He joined in the Barons' wars against King John, who seized his estates in Suffolk and Norfolk, and granted them to Robert de Ferrariis.¹⁰ They were, however, restored by Henry III., and in the year 1238, this Roger de Cressi is thus mentioned.

"De a^a 23 Hen. 3. Rog. de Cressy, q. tenet Horsted, Lings, Blickling, Lechesham, Bliburg cclxxvj^s de debit indeor."¹¹

His two sons, Hugh and Stephen de Cressi, were successively lords of Blythborough. Ermetrude, the widow of the latter, held ten pounds per annum in this manor of the gift of the King, into whose hands it had reverted on the death of Hugh de Cressi, in 1263.

Robert Fitz-Roger, the second husband of Margaret de Cheney, next obtained the lordship of Blythborough.¹² He held it as a grant from the Crown, with all its ancient privileges. He is called Roger de Corburg, and was lord of Warkworth, in Northumberland, and granted, by fine, to Richard, Abbot of Sibton, the advowson of the church of Tunstall, in Norfolk, with the tenement of Bomard le Sage, in that town, &c.; the Abbot releasing to the said Robert forty shillings rent in the manor of Blythburgh.

This knight, who was the founder of Langley Abbey, in Norfolk, was sheriff for that county and Suffolk in the third and fourth of Richard I., and sheriff for Northumberland in the succeeding reign of John.¹³ His son, John Fitz-Robert, who assumed the surname of De Clavering, from his lordship in Essex, married Hawise, daughter of Robert de Tibetot, in the sixth of Edward I., and agreed to endow her, upon her wedding-day, at the church door, with an hundred pounds per annum, lands in his manor of Aynho, in the county of Northampton; and in case these lands should fall short of that value, to make up the deficiency out of his manor in Blythborough: the portion of the said Hawise being six hundred marks. In 1324, Sir John Clavering obtained a fresh charter from Edward II., in consideration of £10 paid to the Crown, for a market and a fair to be held at Blythborough, and a market at his manor of Aynho.

"Johēs de Claveryng finem fecit cum R. p. x^{ti} p̄ uno m̄cato apud manīum suum de Bliberg in com. Suff. et una feria ibidem, ac uno m̄cato apud manīum de Eynho, in com. Norht. hend."¹⁴

The holding of this market was afterwards presented as being to the prejudice of

⁹ Blomefield.

¹⁰ Idem.

¹¹ Harl. MSS.

¹² Rot. Hund. "Itm Robts fil. Rogi. ten. manū de Bliburg de dno Reg. sicut p̄dcm est, et ht̄ ibi wreckuū mar. furc. warenn. ass. pan. et cervis, sicut ancessor. sui huert. et mlto tepe de dono dñi R. ut credim."

¹³ Blomefield.

¹⁴ Rot. Scac. de an. 17 Ed. II. rot. 17.

Dunwich.¹⁵ Sir John rendered £ 20 for his manor of Blythborough, and leaving no male issue, settled his estates upon King Edward II. and his heirs ; in consequence of which Blythborough became the property of Edward III., who, in the second year of his reign, granted a life interest herein to Edmund de Clavering, the brother of Sir John, aforesaid, with remainder to Ralph de Nevil, who married Sir John's heiress. Ralph, their second, but eldest surviving son, succeeded, inter alia, to the manor of Blythborough,¹⁶ and in 1331, obtained a charter for a weekly market on Monday, and two fairs yearly, to be held here on the 25th of March and the 8th of September. He had free-warren here in 1339, and dying in 1367, was succeeded by his son, John de Nevil, who, in the forty-fifth of Edward III., conveyed the manor of Blythborough to Sir Robert Swillington, for forty marks.¹⁷ He claimed, in right of his manor, the wreck of the sea between Dunwich Old Haven and the town of Southwold ; with certain customs, anchorage, ferriage, and tolls of peddars buying fish there ; and held by grant the marsh called King's Holme, alias Levald's Marsh, the property of the burgesses of Dunwich.¹⁸ He died about the year 1391, in possession of the manor of Blythborough, and Roger de Swillington was found to be his eldest son and heir.¹⁹ This Sir Roger held the manor in capite of the King, for two knight's fees,²⁰ and obtained a grant from Henry IV. of Church Marsh, alias Levald's Marsh, to be held by him and his heirs for ever, rendering yearly a sprig of ginger. He procured, also, an exemption for himself, and all his tenants, men of Blythborough and Walberswick, from paying any customs or dues to Dunwich, for any goods or merchandizes, their property, imported or exported in their own ships or vessels at the port of Dunwich. He farmed the ferry-boat of the burgesses of Dunwich, at the annual rent of twenty shillings.²¹

Charter of Hen. IV. to Sir Roger Swillington.

"Henricus, Dei gratia, rex Angliæ, et Franciæ, et Dominus Hiberniæ, omnibus ad quos presens pervenerit, salutem. Sciatis quod cum diversæ discordiæ, &c., nos, ob reverentiam Dei, &c. ; concessimus, et licentiam dedimus prefato Rogero Swillington, quod ipse quendam mariscum jacentem inter Dunwic et Walburswick, videlicet. per costam maris ex oriente ; ac per magnam ripariam aquæ a portu dictæ villæ nostræ de Donwico, ad dictam villam de Donwico ex parte occidentali currentem, unde unus finis abuttat super portam de Donwico, et aquam inter dictum mariscum, et hameletum de Walburswick ex parte boriali ; et usque ad veterem portum de Donwico ex parte australi ; qui quidem mariscus vocatur Church-marsh, alias Levald's-marsh, et qui de nobis tenetur in capite, dare possi, et concedere prefatis balivis, burgensibus, et communitati ; secundum vim, formam, et effectum quarund. Indent. &c., habendum et tenendum sibi, et successoribus mariscum predictum, una cum petris, sabulo, et wrecco maris, &c. Reddendo inde prefato

¹⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

¹⁶ Radulphus de Neville tenuit in dñico suo, ut de feodo, man. de Bliburgh ; quodque Joës, fil. de Radi. est heres. Esch. 41 Ed. III.

¹⁷ Harl. MSS.

¹⁸ Gardner, 137.

¹⁹ Esch. 15 Ric. II.

²⁰ Rot. Scac. 16 Ric. II.

²¹ Gardner.

Rogero, heredibus et assignatis, unum racemum zingiberis annuatim, &c., in perpetuum. Ac etiam de gratia nostra speciali pro donatione, &c., confirmavimus prefato Rogero, &c., quod ipse, heredes et assignati, et omnes tenentes sui, &c., de Bliburghe, et Walburswic, cum bonis propriis, in propriis navibus infra portum nostrum de Donwico, ubicunq: dictum portum mutari vel diverti contigerit, &c., venire, &c., et cariare et discariare possint in perpetuum. Ac quod predictus Rogerus, &c., habendum feriagium in predicto novo portu, videlicet. a latere australi predicti novi portus, usque latus boreale; et cum converto feriagio reservato Donwicensibus, reddendo inde balivis et burgensibus viginti solidos annuatim, &c. Et si contingat aliquod wreccum maris ipsorum tenentium super terram inter novum portum, et veterem portum de Donwico evenire, &c., rehabebunt libere absq: &c. Ita quod os novi dicti portus, ac filum aquæ ejusdem portus ubicunque dictum novum portum in futurum diverti vel mutari per jactum sabuli, vel aliunde contingerit, sit meta, bunda, et divisa, inter prefatum Rogerum, heredes et assignatos suos de Bliborough et Walberswic et Dunwic in perpetuum.”²²

In 1408, Sir Roger Swillington obtained from the Crown an ample confirmation of the manor of Blythborough, with its market, fairs, wreck of sea, &c., as granted to William de Norwich by Henry III.²³ He left, by Joan his wife, a son named John, who died in the sixth of Henry V., at the age of twenty-five years; and two daughters, Margaret and Anne: the former married Sir John Gray, of Ingolsby, in Lincolnshire, who in her right held considerable possessions in Blythborough and Wisset.

“Johe Graa Chr ten. de jure Margar. ux^s. sue in Blytheburgh j f. mil. de Dno Rege in capite, qd. Radus Nevill nup. tenuit.”²⁴

Upon the death of his wife, Sir John Gray released these estates to Sir John Hopton, who married Anne, the surviving daughter, and at length sole heiress of Sir Roger Swillington.

“Johes Hopton, fil. et her. Thome H. tenet man. de Blythboro, Wyssete, et Roos, in Wissete, cum p^{tin}. que fuer. Margarete filie Rogeri Swillington, Chr. nup. ux^s Johes Gra, de Dno R. in cap. viz. dic. maner. de Blythboro p. servic. j feo. mil. et maner. de Wyssete et Roos, p. servic. 100 pt j feod. mil.”²⁵

The following pedigree of the Hoptons, who by this marriage obtained the manors of Blythborough, Wisset, and Roos, is extracted from Harvey's Heraldic Visitation of Suffolk in the year 1561.²⁶

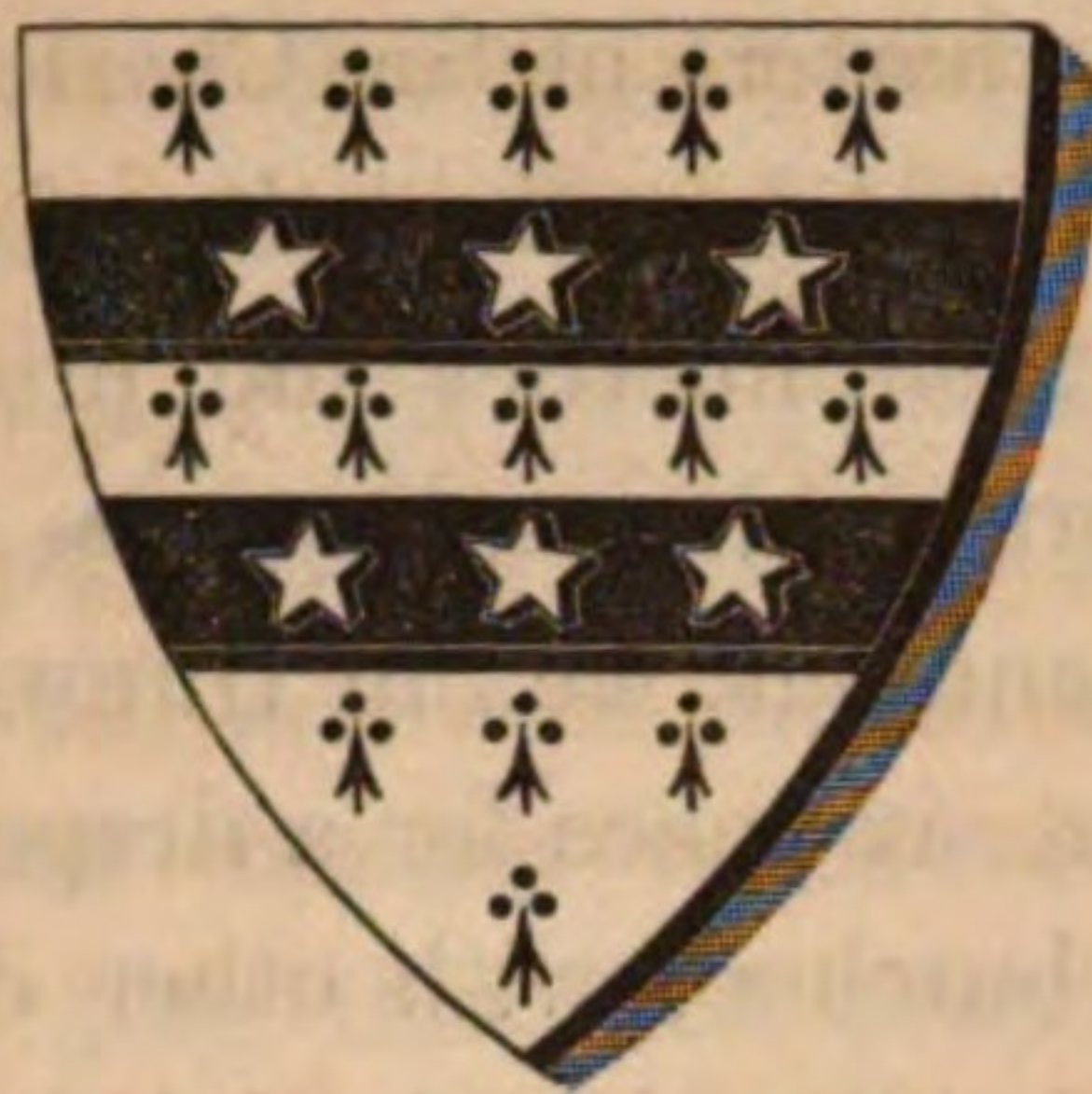
²² Cart. de an. 5 Hen. IV.

²³ Rot. Pat. de an. 9 Hen. IV. m. 11.

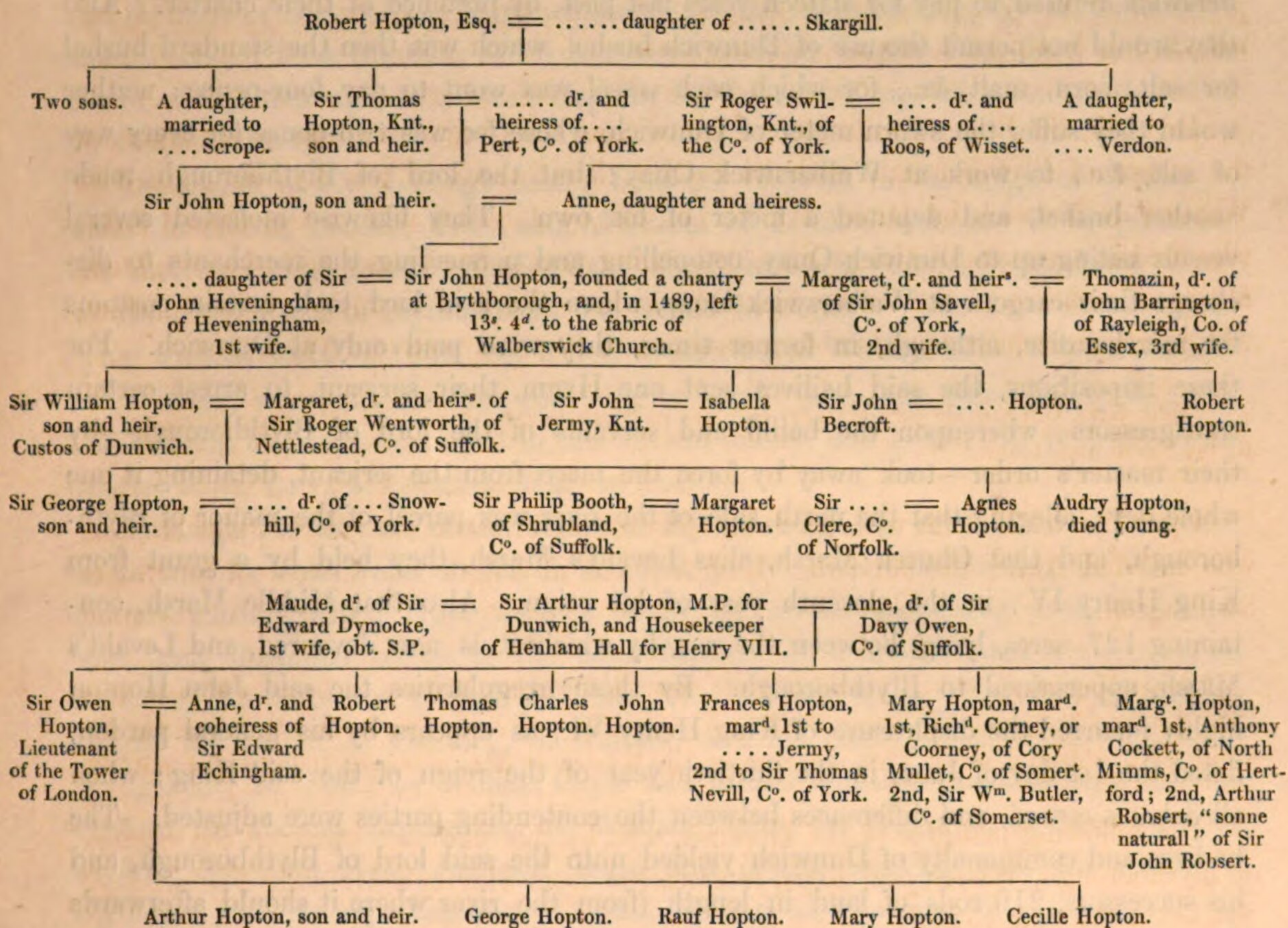
²⁴ From a roll of knight's fees, pen. W. S. Fitch, Esq., of Ipswich.

²⁵ Harl. MSS.

²⁶ Lansdowne MSS. 876.



Hopton.



The great shield of Hopton is of seven coats, viz.:

1. Hopton.
2. Pert. Arg. on a bend gules, 3 mascles or.
3. Swillington. Arg. a chev. sab. in chief a label of 3 points ermine.
4. Roos. Gules, a griffin segreant arg.
5. Savage. Arg. on a bend sab. 3 owls of the field.
6. Thornhill. Gules 4 bars or: a chief arg.
7. Barrington. Arg. 3 chevronels gules; a label of 3 points sab.

Gardner,²⁷ quoting from the charters of Sir Charles Blois, relates, that "great variances subsisted between the bailives and commonalty of Dunwich, and John Hopton, Esq., lord of Blythborough, touching their liberties and properties, both by land and water, for wreck, customs, &c.: the former demanding—as parcel of their fee-farm held of the Crown—dues for stallage, standings, &c., in Dunwich markets; which were twelve-pence, annually, for every mercer, six-pence for a draper, four-pence for all other craftsmen, and twelve-pence for each butcher; with other dues for ships, vessels, and boats passing in or out of their haven. All which the inhabitants of Blythborough and Walberswick refused to pay for sixteen years last past, by pretence of their charter. Also they would not permit the use of Dunwich bushel, which was then the standard bushel for salt, corn, malt, &c.; for which each vessel was wont to pay four-pence: neither would they suffer the sworn meter of Dunwich, whose fee was two-pence for every wey of salt, &c., to work at Walberswick Quay; but the lord of Blythborough made another bushel, and deputed a meter of his own. They likewise molested several vessels sailing up to Dunwich Quay, compelling and persuading the merchants to discharge their cargoes at Walberswick Quay, where the said lord took certain customs for merchandize, although, in former times, they were paid only at Dunwich. For these impositions, the said bailives sent one Hyam, their serjeant, to arrest certain transgressors; whereupon the bailiff and servants of the lord of Blythborough—by their master's order—took away by force the mace from the serjeant, detaining it one whole day: alleging that the north side of the river was parcel of the manor of Blythborough, and that Church Marsh, alias Levald's Marsh, they held by a grant from King Henry IV., in the eleventh year of his reign. Also that Middle Marsh, containing 127 acres, lying between the sea, by which it is now devoured, and Levald's Marsh, appertained to Blythborough. By these irregularities the said John Hopton highly incurred the displeasure of King Henry VI., as appears by his general pardon, dated the 1st day of June, in the thirtieth year of the reign of the said King; when all debates ceased, and differences between the contending parties were adjusted. The bailives and commonalty of Dunwich yielded unto the said lord of Blythborough, and his successors, 210 rods of land in length (from the river where it should afterwards run) on the coast between the sea and the marsh walls, reserving for themselves free anchorage for their ships, vessels, and boats, and for the drying of their nets thereon."—"The Ports Amotions, probably, were not the least cause of the differences whereby many litigious suits ensued between the corporation of Dunwich and the Swillingtons, Hoptons, and Brooks, lords of Blythborough. For the limits of the former's liberty, relating to wreck, reached along the shore from their port, called the Old Port, to

²⁷ Page 138.

Catch-cliff, southwards; and that of the latter, as by grant to William de Norwich, from the said port to Eyecliff, northwards, comprehending all the coast between the towns of Dunwich and Southwold. But this port being utterly stopped, and afterwards breaking out, and dug out divers times, at several places and miles nearer Southwold, the mouth of the haven, wherever it ran, was deemed by the bailives and commonalty of Dunwich for their bounds northwards; which the lords of Blythborough strenuously opposed, alleging that their property extended quite to the Old Port. And although these differences were compromised between John Hopton, Esq., and the men of Dunwich, as aforementioned, yet the frequent stoppage of the haven's mouth created fresh troubles, which continued until Sir Charles Blois, late lord of the manor of Blythborough, to prevent disputes for the future, erected a land-mark, called Sir Charles's Post."²⁸

The manor of Blythborough passed from the Hoptons in the reign of Charles I., when Sir Robert Brooke, Knt., and Alderman of London, obtained it by purchase. His successor, John Brooke, married Jane, daughter of Sir Samuel Barnardiston, Knt., on whom the manor of Blythborough was settled in jointure. This John Brooke, Esq., dying without issue in 1652, his widow re-married to William Blois, Esq., afterwards Sir William, who held his first court-baron here, "*jure Jane uxoris*," in April, 1660. The lordship has since continued in this ancient family, and is now the property of Sir Charles Blois, Bart., of Cockfield Hall, in Yoxford.

Although the descent of the manor of Blythborough has been given as unbroken in its transfer from John de Nevill, in 1370, to Sir Robert de Swillington, there are charters existing which prove that its tenure for several succeeding years could not have been altogether secure to the latter family. By a deed²⁹ dated at Costesey, on the 1st of April, in the second of Henry VI., William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, assigns the manor of Costesey, in Norfolk, and his lands, called Fframbaldyes, in Wyngefelde, co. Suff., by William Cayle and Robert Kirketon, his attorneys, to John Stafford, Sir Thomas Erpingham, Sir William Philip, Sir Walter de la Pole, Sir John Clyfton, Sir John Hale, Justiciar. regis, and others, together with his manor of Blyburgh, and its appurtenances. Again, by a deed,³⁰ bearing date the 1st day of February, in the ninth of the same reign, Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and Robert, Lord Willoughby, released their claims in the manor of Blythborough, *inter alia*, to John Shardelow, Knt., Thomas Hoo, Esq., Andrew Spirling, and others. To this deed remain attached the respective seals of these noblemen; that of the former measuring three inches and a half in diameter, and the latter, above two inches and a quarter. They are both of red wax, and somewhat injured, but the unbroken

²⁸ Gardner, page 138.

²⁹ Cart. orig. Brit. Mus. 54. I. 8.

³⁰ 41. I. 12.

portions, representing their arms, and a few words of the legends, show the matrices to have been finely executed. By a third deed,³¹ in English, "made xii day of Octobr the nyneth zere of Kyng Harry the Syxthe," between Sir William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, John Shardelow, Knt., Thomas Hoo, Esq., and John Roys, on the one part, and Chancer, Esq., on the other part, the said Earl, &c., conveys the castle, manor, and appurtenances of Kingston upon Hull, together with the manors of Costessey, Westwoode (Blythborough), Snape, Stradbroke, Fressingfield, Wingfield, and Sillam (Syleham), &c. To this is appended the large seal of De la Pole.

The following confirmation of the grant of the manor of Blythborough by Philip and Mary, to Owen Hopton, Esq., is appended to the foregoing deeds, as reciting the earliest charters connected with this lordship.

Philippus et Maria, Dei gratiâ rex et regina Angliæ, Hispaniarum, Franciæ, utriusq: Sciciliæ, Jerusalem, et Hiberniæ, fidei defensores, Archiduces Austriæ, duces Burgundiæ, Mediciani et Brabantæ, Comites Haspurgi, Flandriæ, et Tirolis. Inspeximus literas patentes Domini H. quondam regis Angliæ quarti de confirmatione sectas in hæc verba. Henricus, Dei gratiâ rex Angliæ et Franciæ, et Dominus Hiberniæ; omnibus ad quos presentes litteræ pervenerint, salutem. Inspeximus cartam confirmationis Domini Edwardi, quondam regis Angliæ, progenitoris nostri, factam in hæc verba. Edwardus, Dei gratiâ rex Angliæ, Dominus Hiberniæ, et Dux Aquitaniæ, archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, prioribus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vicecomitibus, præpositis, ministris, et omnibus ballivis, et fidelibus suis, salutem. Inspeximus cartam quam Dominus Henricus, rex Angliæ, proavus noster fecit probo homini Willielmo de Norwico de menerio de Blithburgh, in hæc verba. Henricus, Dei gratiâ, rex Angliæ, Dominus Hiberniæ, Dux Normanniæ, Comes Andegaviæ, archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, prioribus, comitatibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vicecomitibus, præpositis, ministris, et omnibus ballivis, et fidelibus suis, salutem.

Sciatis, nos dedisse, concessisse, et hac carta nostra confirmasse dilecto et fideli nostro Willielmo de Norwico, pro homagio et servitio suo, manerium nostrum de Blithburg, in comitatu Suffolciæ, habendum et tenendum eidem Willielmo, et heredibus suis, cum soca et saca, thol, et theam, et infengthef, warerennam, cum costera et wrecco maris a parte australi de Eyecliffe, juxta Southwold, usque portum Donwic, et cum omnibus libertatibus, et liberis consuetudinibus et quietanciis suis, ita liberè sicut fuit in manu nostra. Except. Hundred de Blithing faciendum; ipse et heredes sui nobis, et heredibus nostris servitium feodi unius militis pro omni servitio, exactione, et demanda. Nos autem, et heredes nostri predictum manerium de Blithburgh in comitatu predicto, cum omnibus libertatibus, et pertinentibus suis predictis, prefato Willielmo et heredibus suis contra omnes gentes warantizabimus, aquietabimus et defendemus imperpetuum, per servitium supradictum. Hiis testibus comite Rogero le Bygot, Henrico Longo Campo, Willielmo de Cantilupo, Rogero de Clifford, Thoma Basset, Galfrido Dispencer, Roberto, filio Petri, Galfrido de Say, et aliis, dat. per manum venerabilis patris R. Cicestrens. episcopi, cancellarij nostri, apud Winton, vicesimo secundo die Junii, anno regni nostri tertio decimo. Inspeximus etiam quandam aliam cartam ejusdem proavi nostri eidem probo homini Willielmo de Norwico factam de quibusdam aliis libertatibus, similiter subscriptis in hæc verba. Henricus, Dei gratiâ, rex Angliæ, Dominus Hiberniæ, Dux Normanniæ et Aquitaniæ, Comes Andegaviæ, archiepiscopis, episcopis, abba-

³¹ Cart. orig. Brit. Mus. 54. I. 9.

tibus, prioribus, comitatibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vicecomitibus, præpositis, ministris, et omnibus ballivis, et fidelibus nostris, salutem. Sciatis nos concessisse, et hac carta nostra confirmasse dilecto et fidei nostro Willielmo de Norwico, quod ipse, et heredes sui imperpetuum habeant unum mercatum apud villam suam de Blithburgh, in comitatu Suffolciæ, singulis septimanis, ibidem tenendum per diem Jovis, et vendere victualia omni die per annum ad dictam villam supervenienda, tam per terras, quam per mare, populo nostro ad dictam villam supervenienti, et in eo commoranti, ut usitatum fuisset, a tempore quo non currit memoria. Et tres ferias singulis annis ibidem tenendum, videlicet unam in vigilia, et in die Annunciationis beatæ Mariæ virginis: aliam in vigilia, et in die Assumptionis beatæ Mariæ virginis; et tertiam in vigilia, et in die Nativitatis beatæ Mariæ virginis. Quare volumus, et firmiter præcipimus pro nobis, et heredibus nostris, quod prædictus Willielmus, et heredes sui, imperpetuum habeant prædictum mercatum, et ferias apud villam suam de Blithburgh, in comitatu prædicto; ac venditionem, et quorumcunque victualium ad dictam villam venientium, tam per terras, quam per mare, omni die per annum populo nostro ad illam villam supervenienti, et in ea commoranti; cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ad hujusmodi mercatum et ferias pertinentibus. Hiis testibus, comite Rogero le Bygot, Emere de Valens, Henrico de Longo Campo, Galfrido de Spenser, Galfrido de Say, et pluribus aliis. Dat. per manum venerabilis patris R. Cicestrens. episcopi, cancellarii nostri, apud Westmonasterium, duodecimo die Februarii, anno regni nostri quinto decimo. Nos autem concessionem prædictam, ratas habentes et gratas eas pro nobis, et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est, Roberto Filio Rogeri, heredis prædicti Willielmo de Norwico, nunc domino prædicti manerii de Blithburgh, et heredibus suis concedimus, et confirmamus, sicut cartæ prædictæ de libertatibus, et liberis consuetudinibus supradictis testantur; et sicut progenitores nostri usi sunt quando illud possidebant in eorum manibus, a tempore quo non currit memoria. Hiis testibus venerabil. prior. W. Archiepiscopo Eboraci, Angliæ primate. I. Eliensis episcopo, cancellario nostro, H. Lincoln. episcopo, thesaurario nostro, Edmundo, Comite Kanciæ, avunculo nostro, Henrico Comite Lancastriæ, Thoma Wake, Johanne de Roos, et aliis, dat. per manum nostrum apud Westmonasterium quinto decimo anno regni nostri sexto decimo. Nos autem concessionem, confirmationem, libertates, quietancias, et liberas consuetudines prædictas, et omnia alia, in dicta carta confirmationis contenta rata habentes, et grata eas pro nobis, et heredibus nostris, quantum in nobis est, acceptamus, approbamus, et dilecto et fidei nostro Rogero de Swylyngton, nunc domino manerii prædicti, et heredibus suis, tenore præsentium concedimus, et confirmamus, prout cartæ prædictæ rationabiliter, et prout idem Rogerus, et antecessores sui, et alii domini manerii prædicti libertatibus, quietanciis, consuetudinibus prædictis, a tempore confectionis cartarum prædictarum semper hactenus rationabiliter uti, et gaudere consueverunt. In cujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste meipso apud Westmonasterium vicesimo die Junii Anno regni nostri nono. Nos autem litteras prædictas, ac omnia, et singula in eisdem contenta rata habentes, et grata eas pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quantum in nobis est, acceptamus et approbamus: ac eas dilecto nobis Owino Hopton, armigero, nunc domino manerii prædicti, et heredibus suis tenore præsentium ratificamus, et confirmamus, prout litteræ prædictæ in se rationabiliter testantur. In cujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Testibus nobis ipsis, apud Westmonasterium, sexto decimo die Novembris, annis regnorum nostrorum tertio et quarto.

BARON.

Pro viginti sex solidos, et octo denariis solutis in Hanaperio.

Ex. per nos { RICHARDUM REDE,
et
JOHANNEM BARON, } Clericos.³²

³² Ex Cart. orig. pen. Carol. Blois, Bart.

The former importance of Blythborough would be indisputably proved by the preceding charters, if we possessed no other witnesses to the fact. The first blow which its prosperity received was probably given by the decay of the ancient port of Dunwich: "for crayers and other craft sailed, before the river was choaked, up to Walberswick bridge."³³ It was then "the residence of merchants, and reputable persons; well frequented upon account of its trade, and divers other affairs transacted here, especially the fishery."³⁴ The town then consisted of many streets, lanes, and alleys: here was also the gaol for the division of Beccles, which was standing, though disused, in 1754.³⁵ In 1639, William Turrold, the sexton of Walberswick, was confined in this prison,³⁶ and in July, 1644, the constables of the Lothingland district had warrants to convey the soldiers who deserted from their impressment at Beccles "to the goale at Blythborough."³⁷ The Quarter-sessions for this division of the county of Suffolk, and the annual meetings of the clergy, were also formerly held here.³⁸ The suppression of its priory contributed to the decay of the place, which a destructive fire in 1676 completed. The loss sustained by its inhabitants on this occasion was computed to exceed one thousand eight hundred pounds. On digging up some old foundations about two years after this calamity, to clear the ground for new erections, the labourers employed discovered several Roman urns and coins, which are the only relics connected with that people as yet found here. A small fair on the 5th of April is still, I believe, annually attended, but the disuse of the other fairs and the weekly markets anteceded the birth of the oldest inhabitants near a century since, though in 1602, Henry Fearme, of Walberswick, was summoned to appear before the clerk of Blythborough market.³⁹ In 1285, Alan, the son of Andrew le Cornifer, de Bekles, and Richard, the son of Robert Brice, coming to Blythborough fair, made trial of skill on each other.⁴⁰

Among the many instances of oppression and extortion practised during the absence of King Edward I., while engaged on the wild project of reclaiming the Holy Land, the following gross outrage is recorded to have been perpetrated here. The jury, impanelled on the King's return to inquire into such misdemeanours, declared, that Hugh de Bussey, bailiff of William de Valne, at Bliburg, and others unknown, went to the house of a certain free-man, resident there, to wit, John de Kyngeshawe, and unlawfully took from him, four horses, and three oxen, one cow, and thirty sheep, and fled with them to the mansion (ad aulam) of the said William de Valne, in Bliburg, at that time its lord, and there kept them imprisoned, until the said John redeemed them, of the aforesaid Hugh, by the payment of fifty shillings.⁴¹

³³ Gardner.³⁴ Idem.³⁵ Idem.³⁶ Idem.³⁷ See ante, p. 50.³⁸ Gardner.³⁹ Idem.⁴⁰ Idem, from Le Neve's Col.⁴¹ Rotuli Hundredorum. This William de Valence, or Valeins, was lord of Westleton, temp. Hen. III., and witnessed a charter granted by that monarch to Dunwich.

"Adam de Blytheburgh, cemetarius," probably a native, or a monk, of this place, is mentioned in Cole's MSS.⁴² as a witness to a deed, dated on St. Matthew's Day, 5th of Edward I., whereby "Walterus Dixi, cemetarius de Bernewell," grants to his son Laurence, his title of the lands, tenements, and messuages, in Bernewell, which he had in right of his wife, Sabina. To this deed is appended a circular seal, bearing a mallet between a crescent and a star, surrounded by this legend :

✠ S. WALTER LE MASVN.

In 1754, when Gardner published his History of Blythborough, the number of dwelling-houses in the town amounted to not more than twenty-one; and of souls, 124. In 1841, the inhabitants were returned at 836, including 215 residing in the hamlets of Bulchamp and Hinton, and the inmates of the Blything Union workhouse, situated in this parish.

On the "Walks" near this town, Toby Gill, a black drummer, belonging to Sir Robert Rich's regiment, was executed for the murder of Ann Blackmore; for which crime he had been tried at Bury Assizes, in August, 1750.

THE PRIORY.

Leland in his 'Collectanea,' speaking of this monastic establishment, says, "Abbas S. Osithæ fundator primus et modernus," and it is probable that the Abbot and Monks of St. Osyth, to whom King Henry I. had given the tithes of Blythborough, were in reality the founders of the small priory of Augustines, or Black Canons, which once flourished here. The monks seem, however, to have been aided in their labours by the munificence of the Claverings, then lords of the manor; for we find the name of that family, and their successors, uniformly joined with that of the abbot and his convent, as patrons of the establishment even to the period of its suppression.⁴³ Richard de Beauvais, consecrated Bishop of London in 1108, is considered by Weever a co-founder, but the chroniclers of that prelate are silent on this point, though they mention his establishment at St. Osyth. I cannot discover the exact period of the foundation of the priory here, though it must have taken place soon after the grant of the tithes of the church by Henry I., because the Prior of Blythborough paid five marks towards the aid given on the marriage of the Empress Maud. Gardner calls Blythborough Priory a daughter-house, and not a cell of St. Osyth; in which he is certainly correct, for its revenues were valued separately from those of the parent establishment: the prior and convent presented to their own livings, and in all things

⁴² Vol. viii. p. 90.

⁴³ Lib. Instit. Norwic.

seemed a distinct body; being subject to the Abbot of St. Osyth, in the nomination of its superior only. The spot selected as the site of this monastery occupies a knoll of ground rising from the southern banks of the river Blythe, and commanding a view of its various windings for several miles. The conventual church, which was dedicated to the Virgin, appears to have been a spacious cross-aisled fabric; and, by the remains of a few of its minuter ornaments, is shown to have been erected by its earlier, or Norman benefactors. The number of canons, resident in this priory, was always small. In 1475, there were but three, besides the prior; for in the will of John Waley, of Blythborough, bearing that date, there is this clause.—“Item, lego Domino Priori et Conventui S. Marie de Blitheburgh, 40s., viz.: Domino Priori, pro parte suâ 20s., et cuilibet canonico, 6s. 8d.”⁴⁴ At the time of the suppression, its inmates amounted to but five,⁴⁵ though the establishment had very early acquired considerable revenues. The church of Claxton, in Norfolk, was appropriated by the priory of Blythborough, to which it was probably given by William de Cheney in the reign of Henry II. It was valued at eleven marks; and a vicarage was appointed, the patronage of which was in the prior, and valued at forty shillings. The churches of Blythborough, Bramfield, Wenhasston, Walberswick, Thorington, and Blythford, with the chapel of Mells, were also appropriated to these ecclesiastics. William, the son of Walter de Chadunefeld, granted by charter, to God and the church of St. Marie de Bliburgh, and the canons there, twenty-five acres and a half of land in Thorington.⁴⁶ Among other witnesses to this donation was Dñs Johe Dufford.

The following charter, though long, is here inserted, as recapitulating the possessions of this house, and recording the names of its benefactors.

Carta regis Richardi Primi, donatorum concessionibus recitans et confirmans.

Richardus, Dei gratiâ rex Angliæ, Dux Normanniæ et Aquit. Comes Andeg. archiepiscopis, &c., salutem. Sciatis me, pro salute animæ nostræ concessisse et præsentî cartâ nostrâ confirmasse in perpetuam elemosinam Deo et ecclesiæ S. Mariæ de Bliburc, et canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus et servituris, omnes terras quas habuerunt in Donewyco, tempore regis Henrici, patris nostri, scilicet ex dono Brictich et Augustini, filii ejus, et Godewyni Oxefoot et Botildæ, filiæ ejus, et Huntelman, et Rogeri, filii ejus, et Mallet, et Ameldi, presbyteri, et Safuli, filii Huthredi, et Ulf le Riche, et Walteri Leadenepena, et Ulf, Camm, et Richardi Diaconi, et Seild, et Snotyng le Rich,⁴⁷ et Alwini Bunt, et Radulfi Coke, et Adwyni Kenewald, et Godeseald, et Dice, et le Waistere, et Henrici, filii Terri, et Levene Tod, et Godenord, et Walteri Besant, et Bernardi, qui habuit sororem Malet, et Thiedredi, et Richardi, filii Brichtine, Buthmari, filii Gothæ, et uxoris, Walteri, filii Malgeri, et terram quam tenuit Gerardus de la Mare, liberas et quietas

⁴⁴ Gardner, p. 129.

⁴⁵ Tanner's Not. Mon.

⁴⁶ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁴⁷ Here is an early instance of reviving prosperity among the Saxons. Ulf and Snotyng appear amongst the first benefactors to this monastery, expressly designated from their wealth—le Rich. I believe very few such examples could be produced within a century of the Norman Conquest.

ab omni terreno servicio et seculari exactione per xii denarios singulis annis reddendos ad festum S. Michaelis, sicut reddi solebant ante extensionem factam in Donewyco. Et prohibemus ne aliquis super hoc prædictis canonicis molestiam faciat, vel gravamen, vel pro prædictis terris quicquam ab eis plus exigat. Concedimus etiam, et confirmamus præfatis canonicis redditos suos quos nunc habent, et quos imposterum rationabiliter adquirere poterint, et omnes terras quas habent ex dono Willielmi del Chednei in Bliburc, terram scilicet quæ vocatur Kingescroft, et messuagium Blacstani et brueram del Stussei, quam Burchardus de Wenhæston tenuit, et xx acras in Westfield, et totam decimam piscationis in Walberdeswyke, et omnia quæ habent in Bregge, ex feodo Willielmi de Monay, et heredum suorum, sive ex dono, sive ex emptione tam in terris et herbariis, quam in pratis et pasturis.

Et ex dono Reginaldi Clerici brueram quæ jacet juxta nemus in Walberdeswyke. Et ex dono Roberti, filii Reginaldi, duas solidatas redditus in Elech, quas Hermerus Russel tenuit. Et ex dono Mainardi, presbiteri, quatuor solidatas terræ in Barneby. Et ex dono Holdeburt de Baudemunt duas solidatas in Mutford. Et ex dono Willielmi Lagunte quandam terram in Gernemue, quam tenuit Avandus Simekyn in illâ parte quæ est in Luderlingland. Ex dono Wimari, capellani, quandam terram in Becles juxta aquam. Et ex dono Roberti le Botiller, et Roberti de Curcoun, et ex feodo Rogeri del Chednei, terras quas habent in Cove, et in Northalles. Et ex feodo Willielmi, filii Walteri, terram de Westhale cum bosco, et aliam terram ejusdem W. in Holecume. Et ex dono Rogeri de Colvile duas solidatas redditus in Bromtune, et omnes terras et redditus quos habent ex feodo Osberti, filii Willielmi, et ex feodo Gaufridi de Marci, sive hæredum suorum. Omnes istas terras, &c., confirmamus Deo et ecclesiæ S. Mariæ de Bliburc, &c. Dat. per manum E. episcopi Eliensis, cancellarii nostri, apud Caagnes xxiii die Januarii anno regni nostro x.

Nos autem donationes, &c., necnon concessionem, &c., quas Walterus, filius Simonis de Wenhawestune, per cartam suam fecit Deo, ecclesiæ, et canonicis prædictis, de toto illo tenemento, quod dominus Willielmus de Redham, et dominus Rogerus de Wymples, Walterus de Cretyng, Willielmus Fareman, Robertus Hulkoil, et Richardus le do. de Donwyco tenuerunt de ipso Waltero, filio Simonis, in villâ de Wenhawestune et Thuringtune, cum homagiis, serviciis, et omnibus aliis pertinentiis ad ipsum Walterum, filium Simonis, et hæredes suos spectantibus. Concessionem etiam quam idem Walterus, filius Simonis per eandem cartam suam fecit canonicis prædictis de redditu trium denariorum annuatim quas Reginaldus de Monte sibi reddidit annuam, pro quadam peciâ terræ quam tenuit de eo in villâ de Wenhaweston. Donationem, &c., quas Rogerus de Chednei per cartam suam fecit, &c., de terrâ illâ quam Basilia, vidua, tenuit de ipso in Dersham. Concessionem, &c., quas Willielmus de Criketot, filius Willielmi de Criketot, per cartam suam fecit Deo, et ecclesiæ canonicis prædictis, de octo acris terræ in Wesletune, et de unâ summâ frumenti, secundum mensuram quæ habetur in villâ S. Edmundi. Donationem, &c., quas Galterus per cartam suam fecit, &c., de sex acris in Deresham. Concessionem, &c., quas Dominus Nicholaus de Falsham, miles, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de sex acris terræ cum pertinentibus in Dersham. Donationem, &c., quas Hugo de Cressy, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de unâ marcatâ redditus in Walbertewic. Donationem, &c., quas Thomas de Hopitune per cartam suam fecit, &c., de totâ terrâ quam Domelin tenuit de ipso Thomâ in Jokesford, et de serviciis ejusdem terræ, scilicet de x denariis et duabus gallinis, et quadam operatione unius diei ad cibum ejusdem Domelini, cum omnibus aliis pertinentibus suis, necnon quietam clamanciam quam idem Thomas per eandem cartam suam fecit, &c., de eodem Domelin, et omnibus hæredibus suis, et homagio prædicti Thomæ de Hopitune, et omnium hæredum suorum cum omnibus catallis suis imperpetuum. Concessionem, &c., quas Rogerus, filius Thomæ de Hopetune, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de omnibus donationibus et concessionibus quas prædictus Thomas, pater suus, fecit eisdem canonicis de totâ terrâ quam Alanus, filius Rogeri de Jokeford, tenuit de ipso Thoma, patre suo, scilicet, de quatuor acris de arabili, et dimidia acrå de prato, et dimidia acrå de marisco, cum messuagio, et de ipso Alano, et Mabilla uxore ejus cum totâ sequelâ suâ quietis ab homagio prædicti Rogeri, vel hæredum suorum sine omni

retenemento sibi vel hæredibus suis. Concessionem, &c., quas idem Rogerus, &c., fecit, de totâ terrâ quam Domelin tenuit de patre suo in Jokesford, et homagio ipsius Domelini cum omni sequelâ suâ absque omni retenemento sibi vel hæredibus suis. Donationem, &c., quas Michael de Bavent per cartam suam fecit, &c., de unâ acrâ terræ in eadem villâ. Concessionem, &c., quas Galfridus Capra de Bulcamp, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de messuagio, et toto tenemento quod Thomas le Hoppere tenuit de ipso in Bulcampe, &c. Remissionem, etiam, quam idem Galfridus, &c., fecit, &c., de duobus denariis quos iidem canonici solebant sibi annuatim reddere de messuagio Huberti Coci, et de illis particulis marisci et prati in Bulcampe, quas Aluredus de Bulcrempe tenuit de ipso Galfrido, et de illâ particulâ marisci quam Petrus Permentarius tenuit de eodem, et de illâ particulâ quam Rogerus Cocus tenuit de eodem, et de unâ acrâ terræ arabilis juxta domum Thomæ le Hoppere, quam Petrus Permentarius tenuit de eodem, et de duabus acris terræ inter domum Benedicti, filii Alani Carpentarii, et cruacem quas idem Benedictus tenuit de eodem. Et de unâ acrâ terræ in villâ de Bulcampe, propinquiore fossato Ranulfi de Bulcampe, et de dimidiâ acrâ marisci in Siremore, et de totâ parte quam idem Galfr. habuit in marisco quæ appellatur Pochesfen; scilicet a divisâ de Bregge, usque ad divisam de Henham, et a divisâ de Henham usque ad Galthesfordesdale. Concessionem, &c., quas Ric. de Blumvile, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de omnibus terris et redditibus quas Galfridus Capra et predecessores sui contulerunt eisdem canonicis de feodo ipsius Richardi in villâ de Bulcampe. Concessionem, &c., quas Willielmus, filius Walteri de Sadenfeld, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de unâ acrâ terræ arabilis cum pertinentiis, quæ jacet juxta cimiterium ecclesiæ de Thuritone, ex parte occidentis, una cum advocatione ejusdem ecclesiæ de Thuritone et de omnibus terris et possessionibus quas habent de feodo ipsius Willielmi in prædictâ villâ de Thuritone. Concessionem, &c., quas idem Willielmus per aliam cartam suam fecit, &c., de omnibus terris et possessionibus, &c., quas habent de feodo ipsius Willielmi in villâ de Thuritone. Concessionem, &c., quas Walterus, filius Willielmi de Sadonefeld, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de unâ acrâ terræ cum pertinentis in villâ de Thuritone, jacente juxta ecclesiam ejusdem villæ ex parte occidentali, una cum advocatione ecclesiæ ejusdem villæ. Donationem, &c., quas Radulphus de Criketot, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de ecclesiâ de Blifordiâ cum omnibus pertinentiis et obventionibus suis, et de particulâ silvæ in eadem villâ, quæ vocatur Pilchershegh, cum omnibus rebus ad prædictam ecclesiam pertinentibus, &c. Donationem, &c., quas Willielmus, filius Gileberti, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de v. s. de marcatâ redditus, quem Nicholaus, nepos suus, tenuit de eo, in Rissemere. Concessionem, &c., quas Alicia de Frostendene, filia Willielmi de London, per cartam suam fecit, &c., de redditu quatuor solidorum in villâ de Frostendene, ratas habentes et gratas, &c., confirmamus, &c. Dat. per manum nostram apud Bernewell, xviii de Februarii.

Such were the possessions of this monastery in the year 1199. About a century later, when the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* was made, the convent held rents in thirty-seven parishes in Suffolk, amounting to £ 32. 18s. 2½*d.*, while in Great Yarmouth its possessions were worth £1. 6s. per annum, = £ 34. 4s. 2½*d.*

In 1331, the establishment acquired a valuable augmentation to its revenues. "Prior de Blitheburgh finem fecit cum R. p. sexaginta solidos p. lic. danda Johi. Fonas, vicar. ecclie de Claxton, et Henr. Brid, de Halesworth, qd̄ ipi sexaginta et unâ acras trē, et tres acras pasture cum p̄tin. in Spetteshale, Westhale, Thornton, et Blitheburgh dare possit, et assignare p̄fato priori et conventui ejusdem loci hend. ad manum mortuam." ⁴⁸ In the thirty-sixth of Edward III., Torald, Vicar of Bradfield, in Suffolk,

⁴⁸ Rot. Scac. de an. 6 Ed. III. Rot. 36.

conveyed to the Prior of Blythborough, and his successors, a tenement called Beaumont's, in Bregg, a hamlet of Blythborough.⁴⁹ In 1470, John Bingle left a legacy, by will, to the reparation of the chancel of the Priory church.

In 1528, Cardinal Wolsey obtained a Bull, subscribed by "Clemens Papa Septimus," for the suppression of the monasteries of "Romboro, Felixston, Bronchil, and Montjoye," together with this of Blythborough. The intention of this celebrated churchman was to annex their revenues to his college at Ipswich, but his designs being frustrated by his disgrace, it was not until some years later that Blythborough Priory fell into the hands of the King, who, in 1538, granted its site, manor, and possessions, to Sir Arthur Hopton, of Westwood Lodge. An impression of the common seal, somewhat oval, large, but inelegant, representing the Virgin bearing a sceptre in her right hand, and having the divine infant in her lap, is attached to the acknowledgment of the King's supremacy, preserved in the chapter-house at Westminster. It is tolerably perfect, and has for its legend,

SIGILLVM : SANCTE : MARIE : DE : BLIBERGH.⁵⁰

At the period of its suppression, the revenues of this priory had augmented to a sum rated in the 'Valor Ecclesiasticus' at £60. 13s. 4d. gross valuation. Speed, however, has reduced this to a clear income of £48. 8s. 10½d. The following is an abstract of the visitors' accounts rendered to the Crown.

Prioratus de Blighborough.

Comput: Ministrorum Regis, temp. Hen. VIII.

Com. Suff.

Blighborough. Terr. dnic. et mol. aquat. non respond, eo quod remanebant in man. et occupac. prioris.

	£.	s.	d.
Blighborough. Redd. assis. tam liber. quam custum. ten.	16	0	0
Blighborough cum Wallerswike. Firma rector. et capell.	18	0	0
Hintonhall maner. cum Thoryngton rector. firma	11	13	4
Bramfeld. Firma Rector	8	0	0
Wenaston. Firma Rector	4	0	0

The letters patent of Henry VIII., conveying this house to Sir Arthur Hopton, are dated November 12th, 1538, and they grant unto him the site and manor of the Priory, Hinton Hall, and the lands called Bullocks'-broome close, Mill-hill close, Arnold's closes, Appleton mead, with the water-mill, and other tenements in Blyth-

⁴⁹ From a note taken from a chartulary of the Priory, said to have been in the hands of Sir John Playters in 1714.

⁵⁰ Dugd. Mon. 1830, vol. vi. p. 587-8.

borough; all the tithes of Blythborough, Walberswick, and Blyford; the impropriations of Wenhaston and Bramfield, and the advowson of Thorington, as parcel of the possessions of this house. The priory manor,—which, from having fallen into the hands of Sir Arthur Hopton, who was lord of the other manor in this parish, is now incorporated with it,—extends into the parishes of Thorington, Bramfield, Westhall, Halesworth, Cheddiston, Bulchamp, Spexhall, Blyford, Wenhaston, Theberton, Hinton, Walberswick, Linstead, Sotherton, Holton, and Mells in Wenhaston. In 1552, letters patent were passed confirming the grant of Henry VIII., and settling the priory and the estates thereto belonging on the said Sir Arthur Hopton, Knight, and his heirs, for ever; dated the 14th of June, seventh of Edward VI. The site of this monastery, with the tithes of the parish, and the patronage of the vicarage, are now held by Sir Charles Blois, Bart., of Cockfield Hall, in Yoxford. Some portions of the conventual church are still standing, about 150 yards north of the parochial church. They now exhibit but little of interest, as in addition to the havoc committed at the suppression of the house, and the gradual dilapidations of time, a considerable quantity of the stone from the ruins was carried to form the adjoining bridge over the Blythe and its approaches, about the year 1785. The fabric of the house, therefore, fulfilled the obligations to which its superiors were bound, long after the last of them had mouldered in the tomb; for by an inquisition taken at Dunwich in 1237, it was determined that the Prior of Blythborough ought to mend Blythborough bridge, at his own proper costs and charge, and to keep the same in good repair, by reason of the lands and tenements he holds on both sides of the said bridge.

The seal generally used by this priory was the same as that belonging to St. Osyth, the parent house, in Essex.

The original matrix was found in a field near Colchester by a labourer, and was exhibited before the Antiquarian Society of London, accompanied by a letter from Mr. Bray.⁵¹ It represents the Lady Osythe, with her head in her hands, it having been cut off by Ingvar and Hubba, when they spoiled the place. She was daughter of a King Frithuwald, by a daughter of Penda, King of Mercia, and had made a vow of virginity; but was compelled by her father to marry Sighere, the Christian King of the East Angles: but the marriage was never consummated, for in the absence of her husband, she veiled her head; which he at last consented to, and gave her his village of Chic, in Essex, near Colchester, where she began to found a church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, &c. When her head had been struck off, she was buried before the door of her church.⁵²

⁵¹ Archæol. vol. xviii. p. 445.

⁵² Morant's Essex, vol. i. p. 456.



✠ S. ECCE : SCE : OSYTHE : DE : CHIC : AD : CĀS.

There are views of the remains of Blythborough Priory, in Grose's Antiquities,⁵³ in the second volume of 'Ancient Reliques,'⁵⁴ and in Kirby, &c.⁵⁵

If in thus closing the notice of Blythborough Priory, the account be considered meagre and imperfect, let the reader reflect how difficult a task presents itself to the local historian, who would gather together the scattered notices of persons and places, long since forgotten or destroyed. Apathy, caution, or contempt, too often turn the dull cold ear on the eager inquirer; and records which would correct the errors of tradition, or augment the streams of authentic narration, are withheld to moulder and decay on the shelves of some private recess, a prey to moth and vermin. Within half a century from their suppression, the loss and dispersion of monastic records had formed a subject of regret and surprise even amongst the officers employed by the Crown to preserve them as national evidences. "All, or the greatest parte of all the evidences of the lands, possessions, and hereditaments of all the Abbayes, &c., have by litle and litle, by fraudulent meanes, bene soe pilfered and solde away, and soe drawn into many private men's hands, that there is almost none of them left to your Majestie's use: soe that your Majestie hath nothinge to maintaine your title, if need soe required, but only the long possession, and your owne recordes made since the suppression, whereof a number of them be also gone. Records of revenues, &c., rated particulers, &c., many since the suppression of Abbayes, and some of late yeares, have bin stolne, and some lost by negligence; and some lent upon small gages, and soe forgotten, and not re-delivered; and some lefte in the hands of those that then were, or now be, noe officers, to whom the custody belongeth not."⁵⁶

⁵³ Vol. iii. p. 1772.

⁵⁴ Ed. 1813.

⁵⁵ Ed. 1748.

⁵⁶ Harl. Mis. x. p. 282.

In 1518, John Arpingham, by will, desires to be buried in the conventual church at Blythborough.

HOLY ROOD CHAPEL.

This chapel was erected on the north side of the main street in Blythborough, leading to the bridge, and some remains of the old walls were standing in 1754, when Gardner published his history. It might have been one of the religious establishments mentioned in Domesday Book as then appendant to the parochial church; of which Walberswick was unquestionably the other. In 1384, mention is made⁵⁷ of some design to remove the House of the Black Friars at Dunwich, to the town of Blythborough, as the sea had washed away the shore, almost up to the walls of their convent. If this migration ever took place, these Dominicans might possibly have been planted here; but no certain evidence exists that the proposed removal ever took place. Indeed, Gardner asserts that they continued at Dunwich to the Dissolution.⁵⁸ The chapel of Holy Rood is mentioned in the following bequests. October 5th, 1503. William Collett, by will, gave to the reparation of the chapel, xx*l*. And in the will of Alexander Richardson, of Walberswick, is a legacy to "the good rode at Blythburgh brygge." In a third will is a donation to the repairs of the "cawsey in Blythburgh, that is to say, from the pictur of our Lord, so northward to the cross in Bulkham strete."⁵⁹

THE CHURCH.

Few ecclesiastical structures in this kingdom possess a juster claim to unqualified admiration than Blythborough church, a fabric splendid amidst decay and desolation. Whether we contemplate the unity of its design, the extent of its dimensions, or the exact symmetry of its component parts, judgment and taste will alike be satisfied. Raised under the auspices of the adjoining convent, its prior or one of the brethren of that fraternity must be considered as having furnished its plan; and the architect has here left a monument of scientific construction and surpassing taste. Despite the long neglect, and want of adequate repair, to which this structure has been so especially consigned, so admirably has geometrical skill adapted resistance to weight and pressure, that it still stands firm and majestic, "*ponderibus librata suis*." But walls of stone and beams of oak cannot withstand the elements for ever; and unless a speedy and thorough restoration be here effected, which I fear it is vain to look for, this stately fabric must shortly sink into irretrievable ruin.

Though raised, as before observed, by the monks of the adjoining priory, we cannot suppose that an edifice absorbing such an outlay of wealth and labour could have been

⁵⁷ Escheat. Suff. 8 Ric. II. m. 50, and Pat. 8 Ric. II. p. 2, m. 33. ⁵⁸ Page 52. ⁵⁹ Idem, p. 130.



BLYTHBOROUGH CHURCH FROM THE S. E.

London. Published by the Author.

Printed by Sandilands & Co.

completed with the unassisted funds of these ecclesiastics, whose revenues never reached a clear annual income of sixty pounds; and the vast profusion of armorial cognizances, which once, and still in part, decorated the roof and windows of the entire fabric, prove that its benefactors were rich and numerous. The church is designed on an uniform plan, comprising a nave, chancel, two aisles, and a south porch, together with a square tower at the western end, of inferior proportions, and most probably of anterior date. The addition of its parapets, and some attention to its minuter portions, show that considerable pains were bestowed upon it, when the body of the church was erected, to render it, in some measure, worthy of its more stately adjunct. The style of architecture employed in this edifice, which is uniform throughout, and the bequests towards its completion, contained in many ancient wills, are alike decided proofs of the date of its erection, which is that of the middle of the fifteenth century. John Greyse, by will dated in 1442, gave twenty marks towards the rebuilding of the chancel, in words which show it was not then began. "*Lego fabricæ cancelli ecclesiæ de Blyborough, si voluerint illum de novo fabricare 20 marc.*"⁶⁰ In the years 1453 and 1454 were more bequests towards it, and some were made as late as 1473, when it was most likely finished, as no legacies afterwards occur in which it is mentioned. In 1462, it was certainly in progress, for John Aleyn in that year gave by will "forty shillings towards glazing a window of the new chancel of Blyborough on the south side."⁶¹

John Greyse, in 1442, left a legacy to purchase "a foddyr of lead towards covering the bell tower," and Henry Tool, in 1470, gave "twenty marks for buying a great bell to be hanged and rung in the tower of the parish church of Blythborough." In Gardner's time there were five bells besides that which the clock struck on: these are now reduced to one. The exterior of this church preserves an air of stateliness, despite its woeful condition. In the aisles, the space between the projecting buttresses is filled with ample windows; the former, surmounted by pinnacles sustaining grotesque monsters, emblematical of the evil spirits in the world, are connected by a parapet of open quatrefoils. The clerestory, as designed by the architect, is nearly all window, admitting little more between its lights than narrow slips of stone. These were also originally terminated by elegant finials. Some Longobardic characters, inlaid in flints beneath the chancel window, attract much attention, and I regret my inability to offer a satisfactory explanation of their import.

The interior, which, amidst all its desolation and neglect, still possesses a peculiar charm, was richly furnished in olden days. The images of St. Mary, St. Anne, and of the Holy Trinity, were here erected in idolatrous pomp, while the figures of St. Sigismund, St. Erasmus, and St. Katherine, glowed in the richly traceried windows.

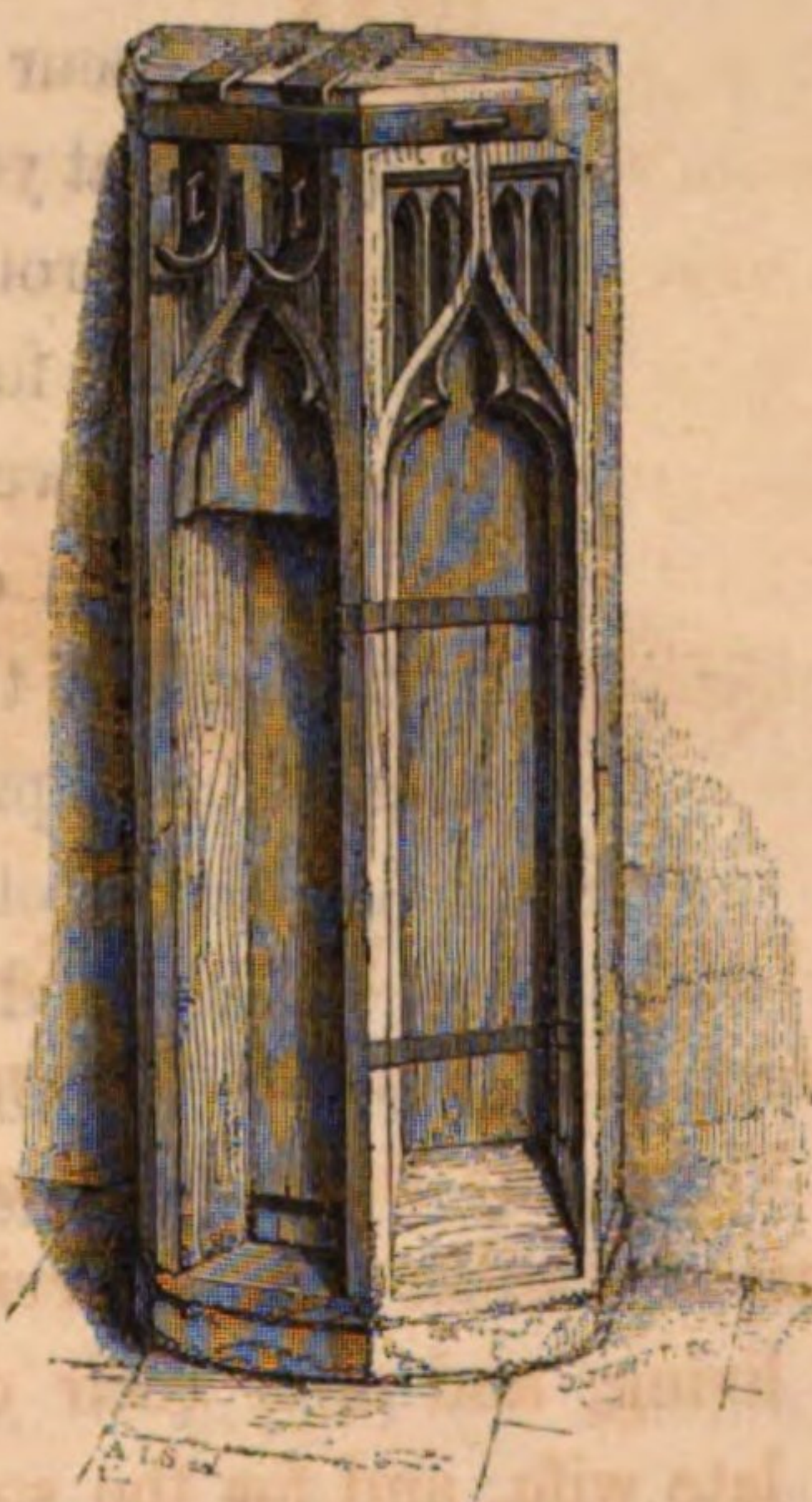
⁶⁰ Gardner, p. 123.

⁶¹ Idem,

In 1457, Robert Pinne, in his will, ordered his executors to "glaze a window on the north side of the church, next the window to St. John Baptist, and to paint the same with the history of St. Anthony."⁶² The octagonal font was raised at the cost of John Masin and Katherine his wife, who probably also vaulted the porch with stone, as its boss, or central ornament, bore the figure of Masin surrounded by a label thus inscribed.

Orate pro aīab; Johis Masin et Katherine uxoris eius.

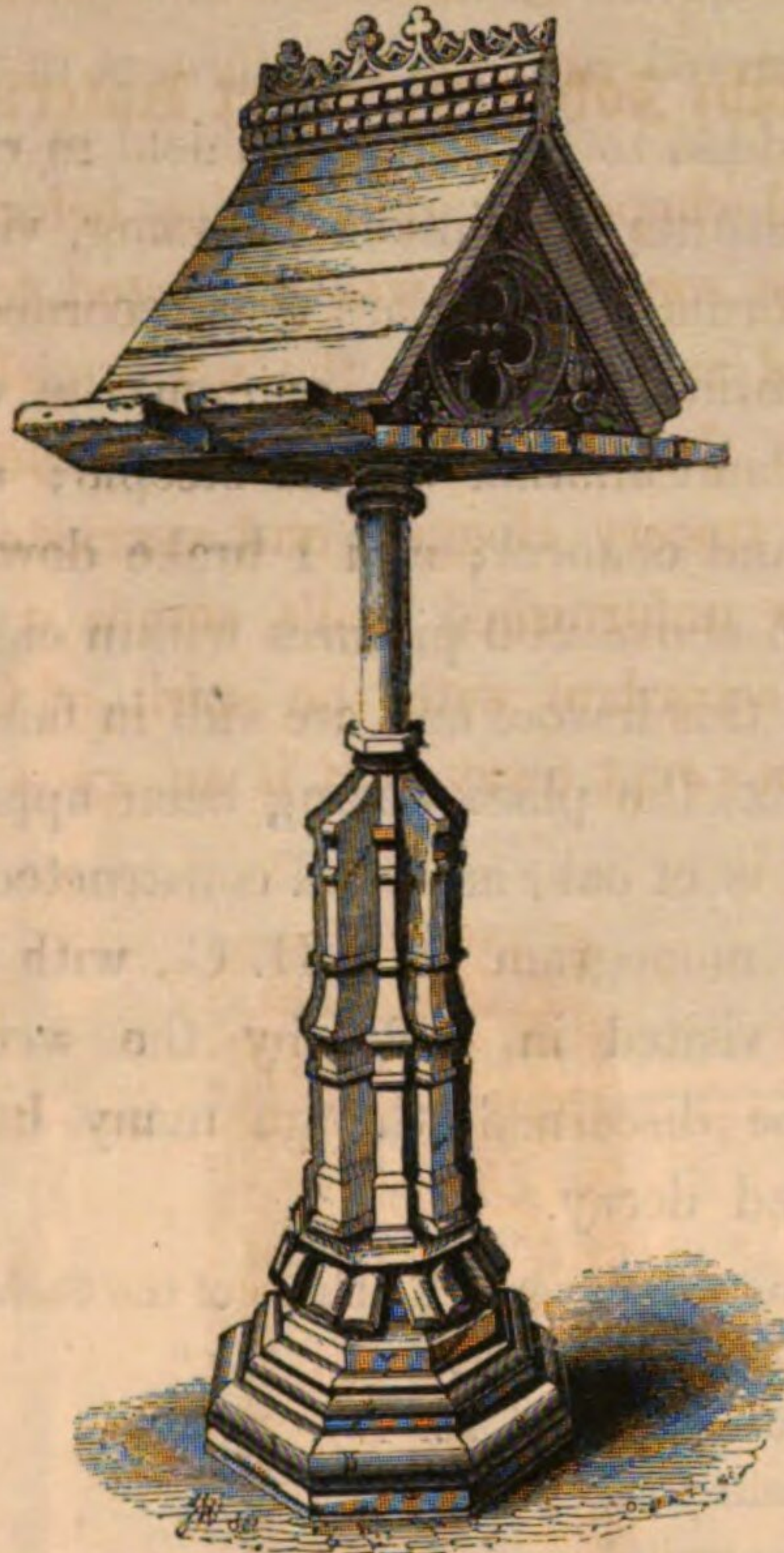
There were also several chapels in this edifice before the Reformation, of which that at the east end of the south aisle was dedicated to the Virgin, while St. Anne, the mother of St. Mary, had an oratory in the north aisle. A portion of the screen, separating the former from the chancel, is still remaining in a mutilated condition, its bold carving and rich tracery clogged and encrusted with accumulated coatings of lime-wash. Against its unfurnished walls stands a relic of ancient days, more interesting, because more accordant with the spirit of Christianity, than the shrines and effigies which have been swept away. It is an ARCA DOMINI,



or poor-box, a receptacle employed in every church before the establishment of Poor Laws, to collect the alms of the charitable. The part which held the money is strongly ironed, and secured by a massy clasp. The busy spider has stretched his threads across the narrow slit intended to receive the alms, which no longer flow through this channel to help the needy and the old. It is of the same age as the church, and shows how

⁶² Gardner, p. 123.

closely the leading principles of ecclesiastical decoration were followed in the minuter furniture therein employed. Not far from this ancient relic stands an elegant reading-desk of carved oak. Few finer examples are probably to be found in our parish churches than this Lettern at Blythborough.



On the 17th of December, 1452, John Hopton, Esq., obtained license, by letters patent of that date, to found, erect, and establish for ever, a chantry in this church to the honour of St. Margaret the Virgin, by the appellation of the Hopton Chantry, for one priest to celebrate daily mass and other divine service there, for the welfare of the founder and benefactors while living, and after their decease for the health of their souls, the soul of Margaret, his late wife, and for the souls of all the faithful departed this life in Blythborough; endowing it with twenty marks of yearly stipend, out of his manors of Blythborough and Wisset, which he held of the Crown in capite; which stipend was to be payable to the said chaplain, and his successors for ever, by two equal payments, namely, at Michaelmas and Easter; and upon default or non-payment of the same, the said chaplain and his successors had full power to enter upon the premises and distrain for the same.⁶³

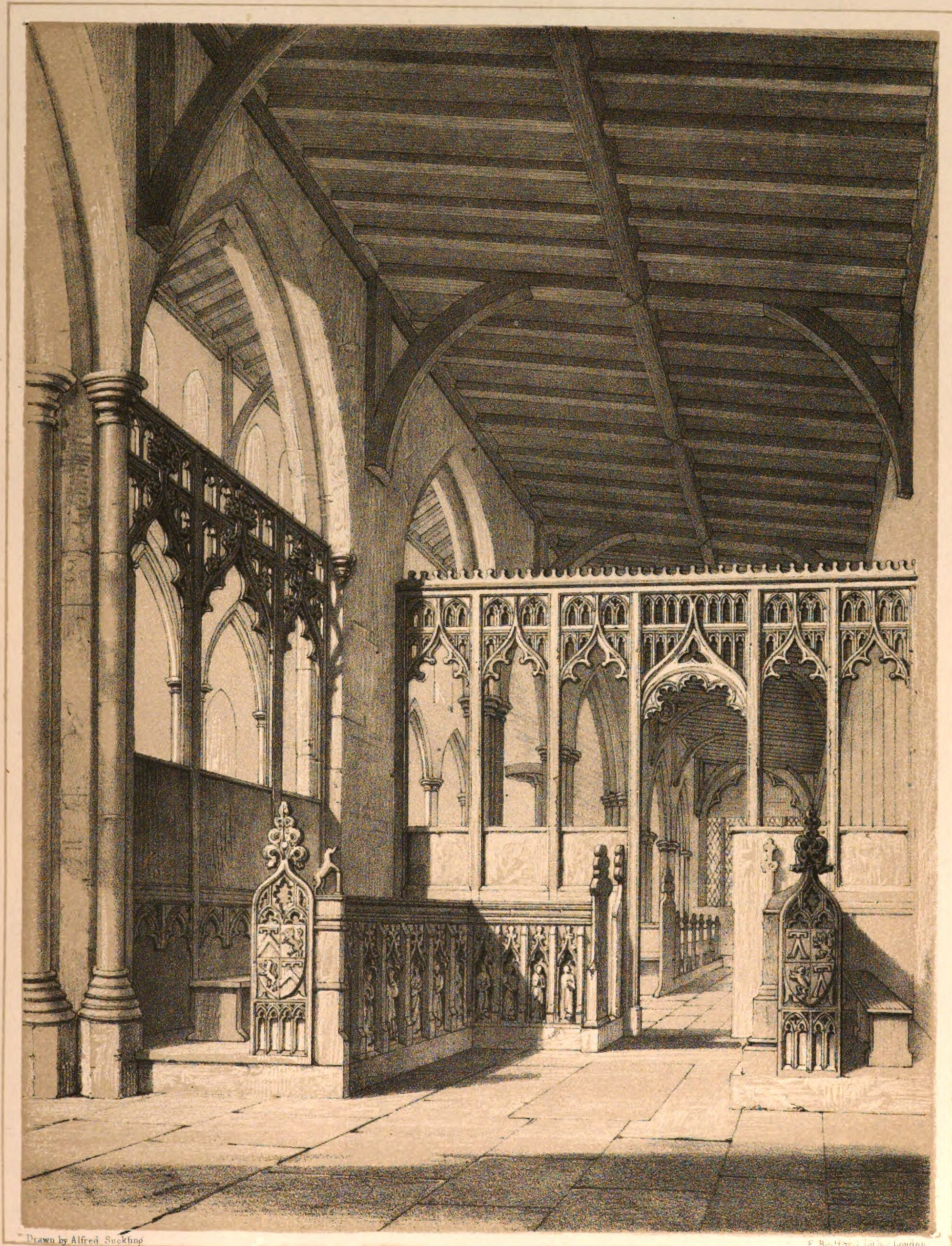
⁶³ Pro cantuar. de Bliburgh, in com. Suff. Rot. Pat. de Van. 30 Hen. I. m. 10.

It has been considered doubtful if this design was ever carried out, because, at the dissolution of free chapels and chantries, no mention is made of this.⁶⁴ The writer, however, is of opinion that the east end of the north aisle, represented in the opposite engraving,⁶⁵ must have been completed for this purpose. The delicate workmanship of its screens, its rich stalls and shrine-work, are the embellishments of no ordinary chapel. The ends of the stalls are carved with the quarterings of Swillington and Roos, which bearings Sir John Hopton added to his paternal shield in right of his mother.

Francis Jessup, the substitute of William Dowsing, visited this church on the 9th of April, 1643-4. His performances here are thus recorded in the journal of the latter. "There was twenty superstitious pictures; one on the outside of the church: two crosses; one on the porch, and another on the steeple; and twenty cherubims to be taken down in the church and chancel; and I brake down three orate pro animabus, and gave order to take down above 200 pictures within eight days." The fine stalls in the Hopton chantry escaped this havoc, and are still in fair condition, though they have received some injuries of late, the place having been appropriated to a parish school. The roof of the nave, which is of oak, and well constructed, was originally painted and gilt, the beams bearing the monogram of I. H. C., with divers figures of angels and knots of rosettes. When visited in 1822 by the writer, the following armorial cognizances were then to be discerned, though many have since fallen, or become indistinct through damp and decay.

1. Gules, 3 cups and wafers arg. Emblems of the Sacrament.
2. Swillington's shield of eight coats.
3. Ufford, sab. a cross engrailed or.
4. Tiptoft, arg. a saltire engrailed gules.
5. Gules, a saltire engrailed arg. Kerdiston.
6. Arg. a fess between 6 cross-crosetts fitchee, gules.
7. Arg. a bend sable.
8. Arg. 2 bars sable.
9. Arg. a cross engrailed sable.
10. Quarterly. 1 and 4, quarterly, gul. and sab. 2 and 3, arg. a bend sab.
11. Gules, a cross flory, arg.
12. Erm. a saltire componee vert and gules.
13. Norwich Priory.
14. Chequy gules and erm., a fess of the second.
15. Arg. a bend azure. Busset.
16. Sab. 2 pales gules, and a chief ermine.
17. Az. a bend or.
18. Arg. a fess gules.
19. Arg. a cross moline gules. Barneilles.

⁶⁴ Gardner, p. 124. ⁶⁵ In the lettering of this illustration, for 'looking east,' read 'looking west.'



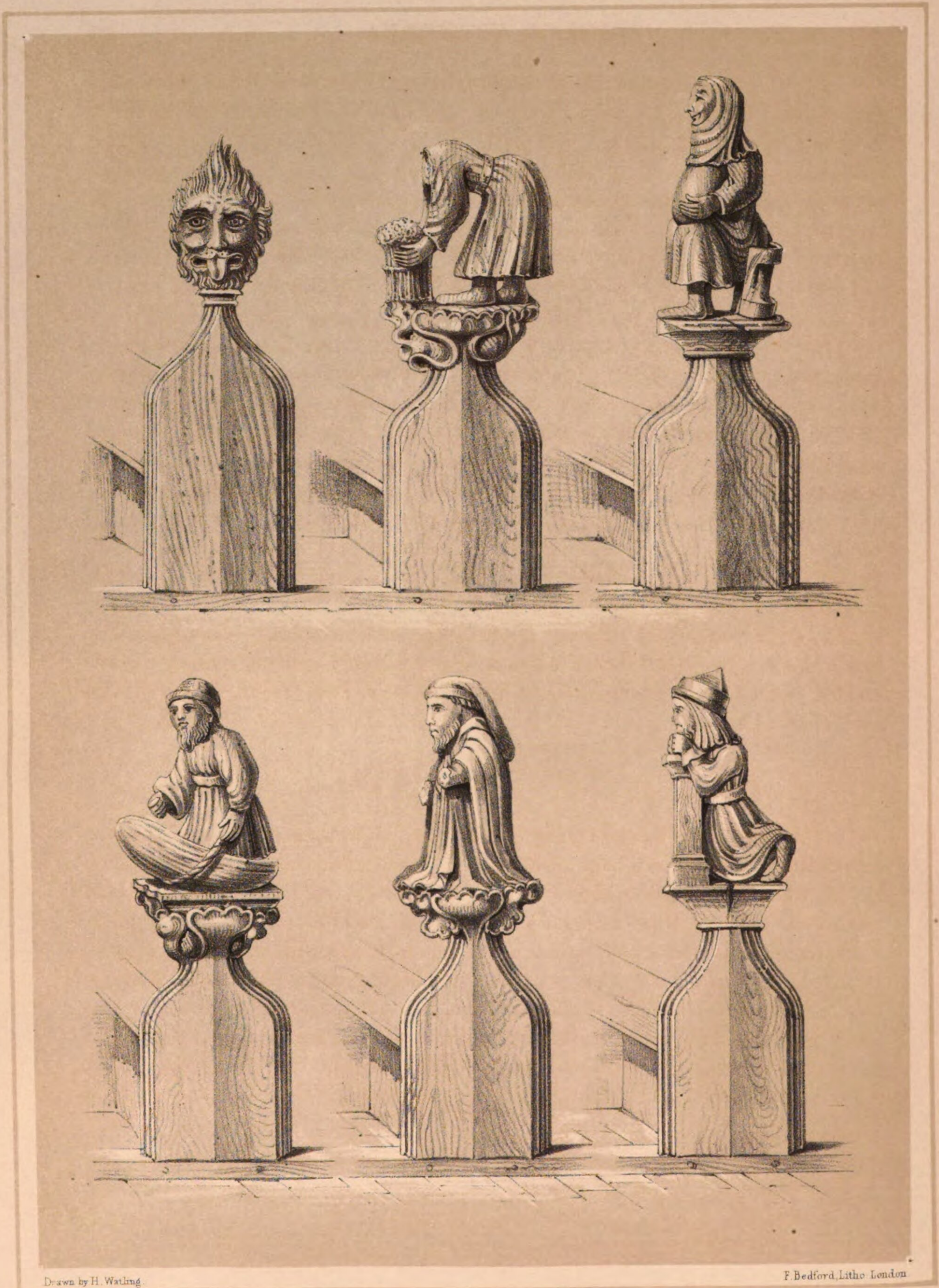
Drawn by Alfred Suckling

F. R. S. & Co. London

BLYTHBOROUGH CHURCH.
INTERIOR OF THE NORTH AISLE, LOOKING EAST.

London, Published by the Author.

Printed by Sandridge & Co.



Drawn by H. Watling.

F. Bedford, Litho. London.

POPPY-HEADS BLYTHBOROUGH CHURCH.

London, Published by the Author

Printed by Sandridge & Co.

In Gardner's History of Blythborough it is said there were "near thirty coats painted upon boards, cut into the shape of escutcheons; but these do not appear to have been of very long standing, nor yet to be done very correctly." Many of these coats are stated to have been formerly in the windows, all of which are now gone, or obscured by dirt. In the 'Gentleman's Magazine' are two notices of this church. In the first it is said—"The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and is a very fine structure; the tower is square and plain, but the body is much ornamented. It consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, covered with lead, and embrasured: at the east end of the chancel is placed a well executed crowned figure in stone, intended to represent the Trinity. The church is kept in a very bad state; many of its fine windows are closed with red bricks; the carvings in the roof, consisting of angels bearing shields on which are painted the arms of divers benefactors to the church, are in such a condition that they are continually falling. An altar-tomb in the chancel, one of those engraved for Gardner's History of Dunwich, now serves as a base for two or three clumsy square columns of bricks, so that the deceased, whatever he might have been in his lifetime, is now unquestionably a firm supporter of the church. The other tomb, engraved by Gardner, is at the east end of the north aisle, and seems now to serve as a depository for filth and dirt, for the upper slab has been broken across in two places, and the middle piece lost. In the front of the two pews, near the last tomb, are little figures, eighteen in number, representing the apostles, &c. At the west end of the middle aisle is an old dial with the little figure of a man, who used to strike the time on a bell, now cracked, in the manner the figures do at St. Dunstan's in Fleet Street. Under the dial is this painted on wood:

As the hours pass away,
So doth the life of man decay.
1682."

In the second letter on this subject, dated 1808, the writer says—"On visiting the church lately we observed a large chest, strongly bound with iron. The sexton opened the lid, when it appeared to be half full of loose papers. Our curiosity tempted us to look at some of them, when we found many single sheets of paper, containing registers of marriages, christenings, and burials, in the time of Queen Elizabeth. How far they extended, our time did not allow us to examine; but it is much to be hoped that this may find its way to the notice of the clergyman, and that he may collect these Sibylline leaves, and have them properly bound and taken care of. They may be of the utmost importance to some families. Amongst these papers was one containing some parish accounts, 35 Henry VIII., a copy of which accompanies this.

"Received of the plowghe chirch ale, xxv^s.

Received and gathered by Lawrence Crane, on Xmas, for sexton's wages, vij^s.

Received of Thomas Martin, of two keyn for his year, iij^s.

Received for men's chirch ale, xxx^s.

Received and gathered upon Easter Day, of the paschal, vij^s.

Received of Thomas Smith, of the fearme of one cow this year, viij^s.

Paid for washing the church linen, iv^s.; for two new banyore stavis,⁶⁶ xij^d.; for one other banyer staffe, viij^d.; for rent for the church-house standing in the church-yard, being unpaid six years, vi^d.⁶⁷

The rent for one half of a close for six years, vi^d.

An organ maker for his coming and seying, and little mending of the quere organ, xx^d.

Candles, Xmas. day in the morning, ij^d.

The sexton, for his wages for the whole year, xx^s.

For wax for the paschal, xvij^d.

For making the paschal⁶⁸ and the towell . . ."

The following inventory of church furniture belonging to this edifice shows that its appointments were in every respect correspondent to the splendour of the fabric itself. The inventory appears to have been made—probably at the command of the Crown commissioners—preparatory to the sale of the various articles, and is extracted out of an old tattered churchwarden's book, bearing the date of 1547.

A note of what linnen, copes and vestments that were belonging to the church of Blythburgh.

Imprimis. Two old aulter cloths, that hang daily in the church, on the lower aultars, of blew bokeram.

Two steyned cloths for the latornes.

One crosse clothe of whight silt, withe image of Lady in it, in gould, frynged.

One aulter cloth of greene silk, withan image of the Trinity in it, not in gould, frynged.

Two old crosse cloths steyned, the one with an image of the Trinite, thother of Saynct Nichulus, for every day.

In Coops.

The best coope of tissau, with one clothe of green buckeram.

One coope of grene silk with flowers of goulde.

Two coops of red sattin.

Two coops of white damask.

Two coops of red damask.

Two coops of blue warstede.

Two coops of black warstede.

One coop of red silk for . . .

One coop of blew silk for a child.

One whole suit of white velvet.

In Vestments.

The best sute of tissawe, with halbe and all y^t unto appurtaineth.

One sute of greene silk wrought byward with gould, with halbe, and all that unto appert.

⁶⁶ These were the banners of Saints, used at funerals.

⁶⁷ This house was standing within memory, but is now destroyed.

⁶⁸ Does this mean making the wax tapers?

One suit of black silk wrought with gould, with halbe and all that unto appert.
 One suite of black warstede buckeram, with halb and all that unto appert.
 One vestment of white branched damask, with halb and all, &c.
 One aulter vestment with blew silk with stars of gould, with halbe, and all, &c.
 A vestment of redde damaske with flowers of gould, and all, &c.
 One vestment of yellowe satin with arrows.
 One vestment of sandy velvet with ostrich fethers, and all, &c.
 One vestment of black velvet, with all, &c.
 One vestment of whight burtchyrarn with Sir Arthur Hopton's arms upon it, with halbe, and all, &c.
 One vestment of red silke with a cross of grace bordericke, with halbe, &c.
 One vestment of white diaper, with halbe and all, &c.
 One stoole.

The next extracts show the amount of money received for the sale of the church goods, after the Reformation.

	£.	s.	d.
1547. Reced of the church warden for two tabernacles in the chancel			8
Recd of W ^m . Crowe for the free-stone of the cross			8
Recd for 103 wax, sold by them in all	1	1	0
1549. Received of the churchwardens that then were, who were Thomas West and Stephen Popull, and sold these church goods—viz. of—			
Master Oyn Hopton for the plate	10	0	0
William Barytt and William Harve for the white sute, and two coops of redd velvett		53	0
Peter Woodward for the suit of green baldkin, with two coops of redd velvet and damaske		34	8
Lazarus Drave for the two blew coops of warstede, and with the suit of yellow satin		10	0
Thomas Motte for the suit of blew silk with bidas and Bishop's coat		12	4
Walter Stylk for a suit of crimson damaske		3	4
John King for a coope		12	0
Corps cloth and kirchyffe		3	4
Delivered to Master Hopton a cope and a vestment of rede damaske, and xl-c. and a awffe of lead			
1576. Paid to Hurman when he took the clock and chimes, 11d.			
<i>The sale of the organ perke.</i>			
1582. Sold to John Crysmus 8 pieces of timber		6	8
Sold him the bottom of the organe perke, and the steiers		7	0
Sold him the organe case		8	0
Sold him the wynite towne			6
Sold Kempe 8 pelers		1	4
Sold Kempe fur designe, and half a vannchebord, and other trinkets		2	0
To Crysmus for certayne things in the Huche		2	0
Recd of Sir Arthur Hopton's man Richard for the sorplus		4	0 ⁶⁹

⁶⁹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

Blythborough church was visited in 1660 by Mr. Henry Samson, of Pembroke Hall, in Cambridge, who mentions that much stained glass was still remaining in the windows.⁷⁰ In Stow's *Annals*⁷¹ is the following relation of a remarkable storm which occurred here in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. "On Sunday, 4 Aug. 1557, between the hours of nine and ten a clock in the forenoon, whilst the minister was reading the second lesson in the parish church of Blithburgh, a town in Suffolk, a strange and terrible tempest of Lightning and Thunder struck through the wall of the same church into the ground, almost a yard deep; drove down all the people on that side of the church, above twenty persons; then rent the wall up to the Revestry, cleft the door, and returned to the steeple, rent the timber, brake the chains, and fled towards Bungay.⁷² The people that were stricken down were found groveling more than half an hour after, whereof a man and a boy were found dead; the others were scorched." The parish registers mention, that the spire-part of the steeple was thrown down, and the standing remains greatly rent and tore by the tempest.⁷³

In the Archdeacon's parochial visitation book, A.D. 1663, there is, among other things, this entry. "Here, at Bliborough, hath been no communion for these twelve years past."⁷⁴ This neglect of the most sacred ordinance of our church was one evil result consequent on the hasty and ill-directed principles on which our ecclesiastical reformation was conducted in the sixteenth century. While the prior and convent had the revenues, they found a minister by whom daily services were performed in the parish church, but when its tithes were conveyed into secular hands, the temple of God witnessed his sacrifices but every alternate sabbath,—a decent maintenance for the officiating minister not having been provided. Strongly as the measures must be condemned which transferred the revenues of the clergy to lay proprietors, the injustice, it must be allowed, originated with the monastic orders, who, not satisfied with their temporal possessions of manors, farms, and houses, coveted and appropriated the tithes and offerings belonging to the parochial clergy, and first endowed impoverished vicarages and perpetual curacies. The robbery in this instance was as flagrant, as its perpetuation by Henry VIII. was pernicious and unjust. The total extinction of every abbey and convent in the kingdom, within an average period of three centuries from its foundation, is surely a stronger mark of divine retribution than the occasional failure in the male line of those families whose fortunes were augmented by the revenues of the monks. At the suppression of Blythborough Priory the tithes of this parish were granted to Sir Arthur Hopton, and are now the property of Sir Charles Blois, Bart., who holds the manor, and is patron of the church. The benefice

⁷⁰ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁷¹ Page 324.

⁷² Vide vol. i. p. 124.

⁷³ Gardner, p. 128.

⁷⁴ Idem, p. 124.

is considered as a perpetual curacy, and although augmented by parliamentary grants, is returned at only £45 annual income. Divine service is now performed here once on every Sunday. Walter Burward, buried in Walberswick church, by will dated 1st July, 1525, in consideration of neglected tithes, gave to Blythborough church eleven shillings; and an altar cloth of seven ells; and eight-pence a week to eight poor people perpetually; and left twelve-pence yearly to the shrines of Walberswick, to be carried every Lady Day to Blythborough, and there to offer eleven-pence and receive twelve-pence.⁷⁵

Monuments.—Anna, King of the East Angles, whose royal palace was at Dunwich, having been slain, with his eldest son, Ferminus, in a bloody battle fought at Bulchamp in the year 654, was interred in the ancient Saxon church which then occupied the site of the present sacred edifice at Blythborough. Their bones were afterwards removed to Bury. A plain altar-tomb of dark stone in the north aisle, apparently of the fifteenth century, and once inlaid with an effigy and escutcheons of brass, is usually shown by the sexton of the church as the sepulchre of the King; and a lofty surbased monument in the chancel, built into an arch, and open to the Hopton chantry, is said by the same authority to cover the remains of Prince Ferminus. The former, with more probability commemorated the last of the Swillingtons, who was lord here in the reign of Henry IV.; while the more stately monument in the chancel was raised to the memory of Sir John Hopton. This knight, who founded the Hopton chantry, and finished the chancel of the church in the reign of Edward IV.,⁷⁶ ordered his executors to make this tomb, as appears by his will.⁷⁷ Gardner conjectures that an old coped stone of black marble, narrower at one end than the other, and lying in the church near the south porch, “might be the covering of the said king.”⁷⁸ The probability, however, is that no sepulchral memorial, now existing in the church, can be referred to Saxon times.

The following inscriptions have disappeared since the days of Weever.

1. *In gracia et miserecordia Dei hic jacet Rogerus Boreham, qui obiit xxvij die Nobembris, anno domini 1442, et Katherina uxor eius, quorum animabus ppiciet. Deus. Amen.*

2. *Orate p. animas Simonis Todyng, et Johanne uxoris eius, que quidem Johanna obiit xx die Decembris, anno domini 1482, quorum, &c.*

3. *Orate p. animam Johannis Ranyngham, alias Loman, qui obiit xi die mensis Decembris, anno domini 1494.*

4. *Orate p. animam Johanne Ranyngham, quondam uxoris Johannis Ranyngham, que obiit quarto die mensis Maii, anno 1500, cuius anime ppiciet Deus.*

5. *Orate p. animam Willielmi Colet, quondam mercatoris de Blyburgh, sive*

⁷⁵ Gardner, p. 127.

⁷⁶ From MSS. pen. R. Blois, Clk.

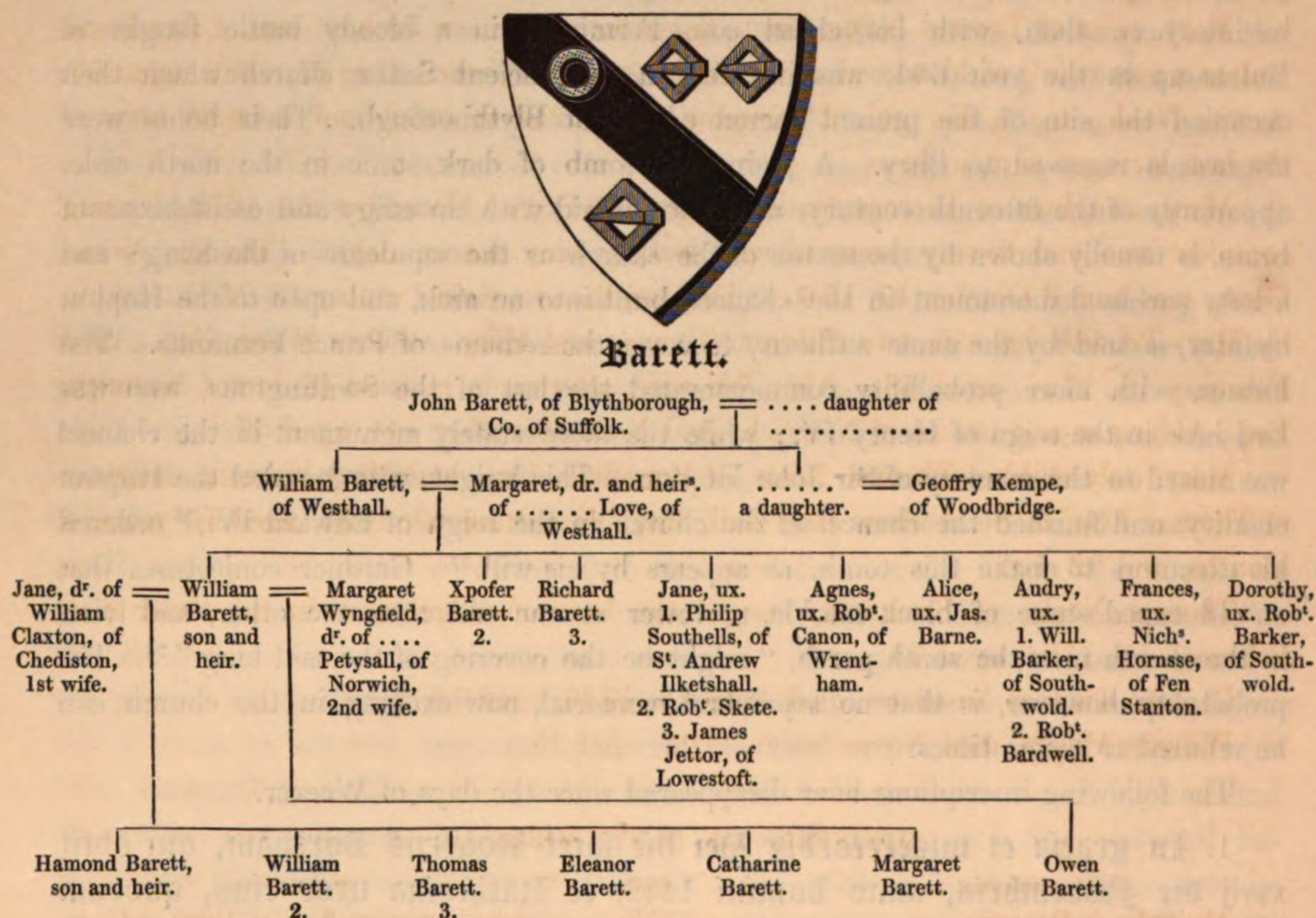
⁷⁷ Idem.

⁷⁸ Page 124.

istius ville, qui obiit xvi die Januar. an. domini 1503, cuius aia per gratiam dei, requiescat in pace. Amen.

6. Orate p. aia Johanne Baret nuper uxoris Johan. Baret, que obiit 14 die Januarii, anno 1520.

In Harvey's Heraldic Visitations,⁷⁹ taken in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, is the following pedigree of the latter family, which appears to have been of respectable connections in the neighbourhood:



In 1510, John Barett, of Blythborough, was buried by the image of St. Anne, on the north side. This I take to be the gentleman mentioned first in the preceding pedigree.

John Swan, buried 1515. Robert Leake, the hermit, buried 1517, before the font. John Masin and Katharine his wife, buried in the porch.

James Ward, Gent., died February 18, 1727, aged 58. Mr. Thomas Brook, of Darsham, died June 24, 1667, aged 48, leaving behind him Mrs. Mary Brooke, his wife, Thomas, his son, and Mary, his daughter.

⁷⁹ Lansdowne MSS. 876.

In piam memoriam Gulielmi Sparrow, filii natu maximi reverendi Gulielmi Sparrow de Halstead, in Agro. Essex. verbi Dei fidelis ministri, obt. 19 Aug. 1681, æt. 29.

Charles Blois Norton, son of Edward and Frances Mary Norton, died May 30, 1827, aged 10 years.

Mary, the wife of John Fowle, of Brome Hall, in Norfolk, Esq., the daughter of Thomas Else, of St. Andrew's, Esq., and relict of Thomas Neale, died December 6, 1722, aged 66. Arms: Fowle, arg. a chev. sab. on a chief of the second, 3 mullets pierced, or; impaling Else; 3 escallop shells, on a fess between 3 crescents.

Mary, relict of Thomas Neale, Gent., daughter of William Browne, late of Rendham, "after a sorrowfull widdowhood of almost seaven years," died May 27, 1688, aged 55. Arms: Neale, arg. a fess gul. 2 crescents of the 2nd in chief, and a bugle horn of the last, stringed vert, in base.

Mary, daughter of Thomas Neale, of Bramfield, died December 24, 1679, "being compleat two and twenty years of age, lacking only seaven days." Thomas Neale, Gent., was buried October 17, 1640. Thomas, his son, died October 13, 1681, leaving by Mary Browne, his wife, two children, Thomas and Mary. James Ward, Gent., died February 18, 1727, aged 58. Alice, his wife, afterwards married to James Nasmith, Esq., Alderman and citizen of Norwich, died November 25, 1754, aged 67.

Mary, only child of Thomas Neale, of Bramfield, Esq., and Mary his wife, daughter of Thomas Else, of St. Andrew Ilketshall, Esq., died June 29, 1694, aged 10 years, 4 months, and 22 days.

Thomas Neale, of Bramfield, one of the best of magistrates in his time, died February 17, 1704, aged 53.

Captain Thomas Meadows, died April 17, 1720, aged 72.

William Maggs, died November 6, 1705, aged 25.

MINISTERS OF BLYTHBOROUGH.

Ministers.	Date.	Patrons.
Alexander de Donewico	1310	John Claveryng, Knt., et Abbas, et Conv. St. Osyth.
Nicholas de Daggeworth	1332	Eve de Audley et Conv.
John Norton	1361	Sir Rob ^t . de Benhall, Knt., Eve his wife, et Conv.
Walter de Hausted	1371	Sir Ed. Ufford, Knt., et Conv.
John de Alneley	1374	Will. Earl of Suffolk, et Conv.
William Wykham	1382	Rob ^t . de Ufford, Knt., et Conv.
Laurence de Brysete	1395	Thomas de Hoo, Knt., in right of Eleanor his wife, et Conv.
John Hidyngham	1396	Idem.
John Lacy	1418	Will. Bowet, Knt. et Conv.

Ministers.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Hadley	1420	Amicia, wife of Will. Bowet, et Conv.
Roger Ockham	1427	Thomas de Dacre, et Conv.
William Kent	1431	Idem.
John Sampson	1461	Rich ^d . Fenys, Dns de Dacre, et Conv.
John Newton	1482	Idem.
John Brandon	1497	Idem.
John Marham	1500	Idem.
Dominus Rob ^t . Parke	1506	Thomas Fenys, mil., Dns de Dacre, et Conv.
John Riglton	1521	Idem.
Ralph Blois	1735	
Daniel Packard	1779	Sir John Blois, Bart.
Harrison Packard	1809	Charles Blois, Esq.
Eardley Norton	1816	Sir Charles Blois, Bart.
Robert Howlett	1835	Idem.
Thomas Harrison	1836	Idem.

Blyburrow als Blyburgh. S. Trinitatis.

Prior de Blyburgh habet eam in proprios usus. Estimatio ejusdem cum capellâ de Walberdeswyk, præter portionem xliij marc. Portio prioris de Blyburgh in eadem vi^s. viij^d. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia per annum ii^s. Denarii S. Petri xxii^d. Norwich Domesday.

Blythborough contains, including the hamlets of Hinton and Bulchamp, about 3500 acres. There are no glebe lands. The present annual value of this perpetual curacy is £41, but Sir Charles Blois has lately consented to augment it with a sum of £200, as soon as the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty have funds enough to aid the augmentation.

The earliest existing register book bears the date of 1690.

Charities.—Thomas Neale gave by will, in 1701, £2. 10s. per annum for teaching five of the children of the poorest parents of this parish, and its hamlet of Hinton, to read; and 10s. a year for buying bibles, or other religious books, for young persons: which sums are applied towards the support of a Sunday school. A dole of £1 a year is paid as a rent-charge out of land belonging to the Earl of Stradbroke; it is equally divided among poor persons of this parish and Bulchamp, and distributed in bread. The sum of £1 per annum was given for the poor by Matthew Walter, in 1589; and £5 a year are mentioned in the returns of Charitable Donations, in 1786, as having been given by Benham Raymond, in 1728, for teaching twelve poor children; but the payment of these charities has been withheld for many years.

Gardner speaks of the town lands as worth, in his time (1754), about £6 per annum; whereof £4. 5s. arose from lands lying in Wenhaston, and the rest in Blythborough.

Population in 1841,—592.

Blythford.

HERE, as in Saxon times, is still a ford through the river Blythe, though the stream was then, most probably, passable only at particular periods of the tide; for when the Norman Survey was compiled, we find but one acre of meadow returned as pasture: it has now left a broad tract of valuable marsh land upon both its borders.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Edwin, a free Saxon, held, in Blideford, two carucates of land for a manor. Of this he was deprived at the Conquest, when the lordship was bestowed upon Godric Dapifer. At both periods there were five villeins, three bordars, and two servi, or slaves: two carucates of land were held in demesne, and the tenants farmed three carucates, and one acre of meadow. Timber was then abundant here, for there was wood sufficient to fatten 160 swine. There was a mill, which appears to have been built by Godric. In the returns of the live stock it is said there was under each owner one draft horse: the Saxon lord possessed four head of cattle; Godric nine, seventeen swine, and three sheep. A church was then standing in this parish, endowed with twelve acres of glebe, always valued at 40 shillings. The village was one leuca in length, and the same in breadth, and paid three-pence halfpenny land-tax. Godric held the soc.¹

The manor of Blythford was held soon after this period by the family of De Criketot, apparently of the Lords De Munchensi, for in the fifth of John, anno 1203, Constancia, the widow of Simon de Criketot, sued William de Munchensy for her dower in this village.

*Constancia, que fuit uxor Simonis de Criketot petit versus Will. de Munchensy rational. dotem suam, scil. capital. mess. de Blyford cum pcie pte totius sue in ead. vill. et si non sufficit, pficiet. in Walesham, terram quam Ric. Pincerna tenet.*²

In the twenty-fourth of Henry III., a fine was levied between Alicia de Criketot, petent, and Simon de Criketot, tenant, of the third part of two knights' fees in Blythford, Suffolk, and of the third of a fourth part of a fee in South Walsham, in Norfolk, as the inheritance of Ralph de Criketot, her deceased husband, granted in dower to Alicia; she releasing all her rights in other lands.³ The manor next passed by marriage to the family of Bavent, for Hugh de Bavent, and Felicia his wife, sued for and recovered a third part of this manor, and a moiety of a lordship in South Walsham, against Warin de Munchensi, of the inheritance of Simon de Criketot, her late husband, held in soccage

¹ Domesday, 355, b.

² Harl. MSS. 972.

³ Blomefield.

of Nicholas le Boteler.⁴ In the ninth of Edward I., Thomas de Bavent was lord of Blythford.⁵ In this, and the preceding reign, the families of Rothing and Craven had interests here; for in the year 1266, Thomas de Cravene held free-warren in the manors of Henham, Bulchampe, and Blythford.⁶ William de Rothing also claimed free-warren in the latter manor, though his claims for this appear no better established than his tenure of "bortrin," a kind of annual levy which the bailiff of the Crown had been accustomed to collect.

Itm dnt qd. Will. de Rothing ten. bortr. suum apd Bliford, qd. Ballis dñi. R. solet tene. nesc. q. warr.⁷

Itm Wills de Rothing ht. warren. in Bliford, nesc. q. warr.⁸

I next find this manor in the family of Micklefield, who bore for arms, arg. a cross engrailed sab. guttee d'or. Katherine, wife of John Snokeshylle, and relict of Richard Micklefield, deceased, made her last will, with the concurrence of her husband, at the manor of "Blyforthe," on the 2nd of April, 1421: which will was proved on the 26th of the same month and year. William Micklefield, of Blythford, by deed dated at Henham on the day next after the feast of St. John the Baptist, in the eighth of Henry VI., grants to William Phelyp, Knt., John Heveningham, jun., Knt., William Gernham, Clk., Richard Daniel, Clk., William Brasier, Clk., Robert Banyard de Spectishall, and William Hoo de Wyssete, his manor called Cravenes, in Henham, with its tenement, woods, pastures, rents, &c., and all other its appurtenances thereto belonging, in the towns of Henham, Blythborough, Bulchamp, Sotherton, Donewych, Wangfield, Reydon, Brampton, Westhall, and Blyford, to have and to hold, &c. Witnesses, Thomas Kerdiston, Knt., John Shardelow, Esq. and others.⁹ This William Micklefield, Esq., by his last will and testament, dated at Henham on the 7th of November, 1439, and proved on the last day of June, 1441, devises his manor of Blythford, with all its appurtenances in Blythborough and elsewhere, to Robert Micklefield, his brother. Robert died in possession of this estate; for by his will, dated on the 4th of April, 1466, and proved on the 27th of February, 1471, he bequeaths "omnia utensilia et res alias infra cameram suam," in his manor of Blythford, to Margaret his wife. This lady was daughter of William, and sister and heiress of John Irmingland, Rector of Stifkey St. John, in Norfolk, and relict of Richard Calthorpe, Esq., of Cockthorp, in the same county, where she was buried, having died in 1480. The Micklefields appear to have retained the manor of Blythford till the reign of Henry VIII.¹⁰ In the seventeenth century it was held by the family of Wood, which failing in the male line in 1743, it descended, inter alia, to the coheirs of Sir Henry Wood's two sisters. On the 11th of June, 1747, Robert Oneby, Esq.,

⁴ Blomefield.

⁵ Mag. Brit.

⁶ Carta 51 Henry III.

⁷ Rotuli Hundredorum.

⁸ Idem.

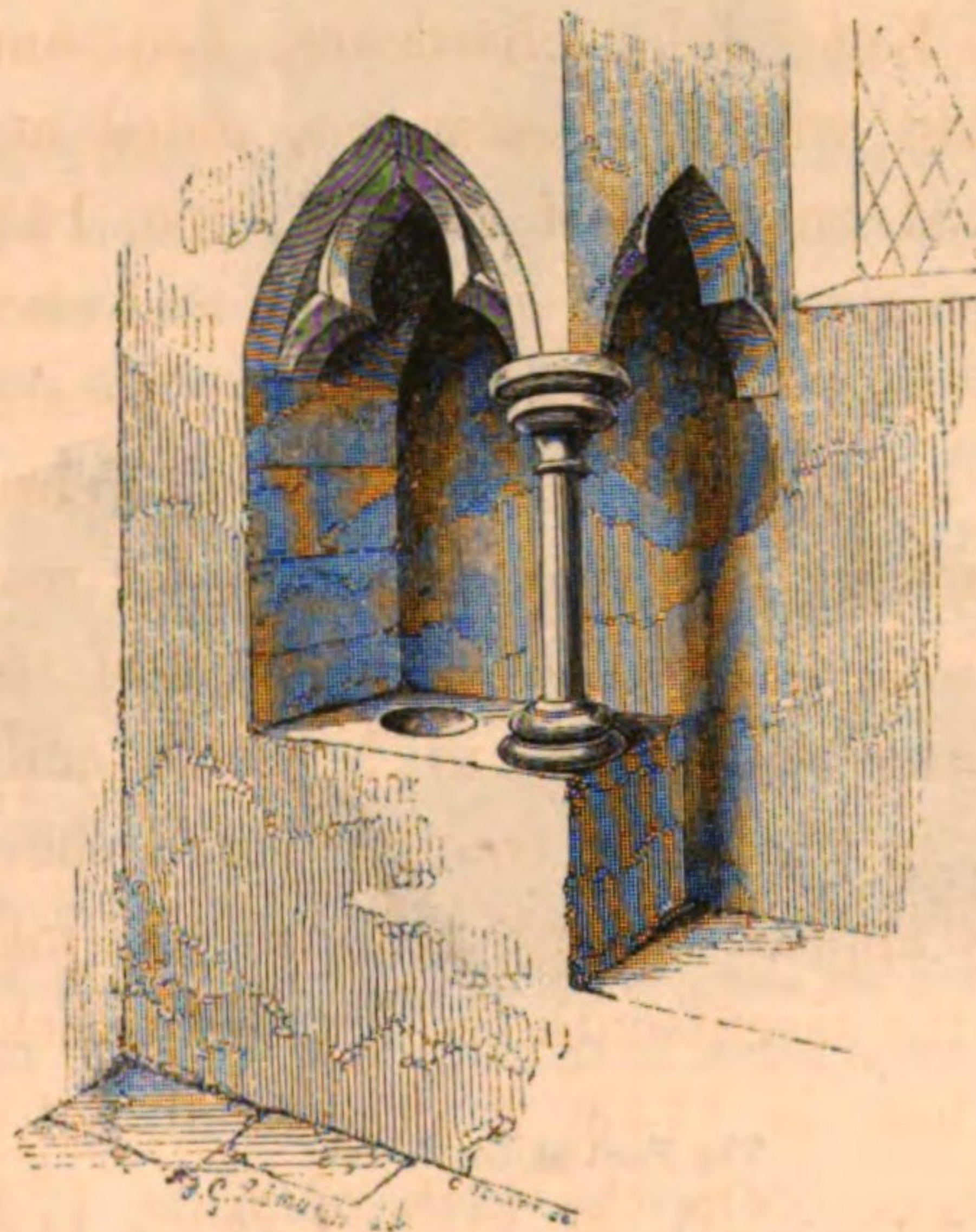
⁹ Ex carta orig. Brit. Mus.

¹⁰ Kirby's MSS.

occurs as lord of Blythford in right of Susan his wife, one of the heiresses aforesaid; whose son Robert, dying in 1753, without issue, it passed by inheritance to the Chapmans, descended by the maternal line from the Woods. It was subsequently purchased by John Dresser, Esq., who, dying at Blythford Hall in the year 1822, bequeathed the manor and impropriation of this parish to their present possessor, the Rev. Jeremy Day, Rector of Hetherset, in the county of Norfolk.

THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to All Saints, is a small fabric, erected on the northern bank of the river Blythe, and from the mixed character of its architecture, which partakes of the Norman and Early English styles, was probably founded by the monks of Blythborough soon after they obtained possession of its endowment and patronage. In this case, it superseded the more ancient fabric recorded in Domesday Book, which was most likely a Saxon erection. It now comprises a nave and chancel of the same width, with a square tower at the west end, in which hangs one bell only. There is a good porch on the north side of the nave. In this portion of the fabric we find a north and south doorway of excellent Norman workmanship, the latter having plain mouldings. The chancel presents specimens of the earliest Pointed style, both in its doorway and windows. The interior is kept in neat and reputable condition. Here we observe, in the first place as entitled to notice, a fine example of the Early English Piscina.



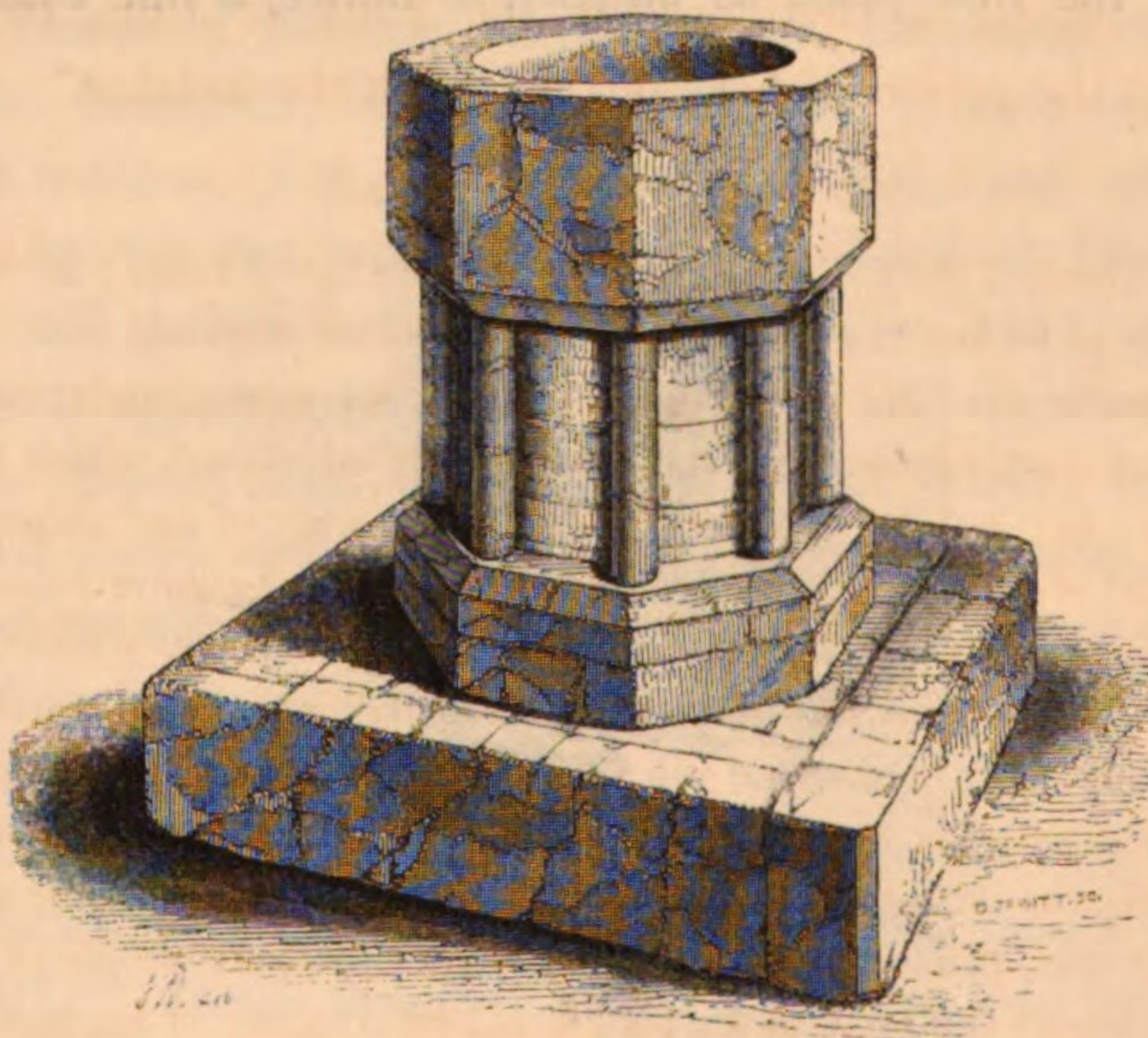
Near the lofty arch which opens from the bell-tower to the nave, may also be perceived a narrow recess in the wall, in which the processional crosses, used in popish

worship, were deposited when not employed in the services of the church. In Will. Dowsing's days, who visited this church on the 9th of April, 1643-4, there were many remnants of ancient usages which he consigned to destruction. "There was thirty superstitious pictures; a crucifix; and the four evangelists; and the steps promised to be levelled, and begun to be digged down; a cross on the chancel they promised to take down; and a triangle on the porch, for the Trinity, and two whips, &c. Christ and a cross all over the porch."

Katherina, uxor Johis Snokeshylle, nup. ux. Rici Mykelfeld, by will, dated 2nd April, 1421, leaves her body to be buried in the church of Blythford. Robtus Mykelfeld de Blytheford, Arm. p. test. et ult. vol. suam, dat. 4 die Apr. A°. Dñi., 1466, apud Blytheford legat corpus suum sepeliend. ppe lumen cancelli ecclie parve. de Blytheford predic. In 1485, Katharine, wife of Thomas Cauze, or Caus, of Hingham, in Norfolk, was buried in Blythford church, to which she is said to have been a benefactress.

John Dresser, Esq., died at Blythford Hall, February 18th, 1822, and has a mural monument here. Edmund Freeman, killed in action with two French frigates and a battery off Guadaloupe, in the West Indies, on the 19th of December, 1809, aged 21 years, 5 weeks, and 4 days.

The registers commence in 1695.



The Font at Blythford.

The church of Blythford having been granted about the year 1199, by Ralf de Criketot, to Blythborough Priory, that convent procured an appropriation of its revenues, and appointed a chaplain to perform divine service. With the monks it

remained till the dissolution of their order, when, following the fate of their other possessions, it passed into the hands of Sir Arthur Hopton, in the 30th of Henry VIII. The impropriation becoming united with the manor, passed in succession with it to the present owner. As a benefice, the church is considered a private donative, the income of which, from this circumstance, is not ascertained, though the yearly certified value is £16. The Rev. Richard Day is the present minister.

The following are the only institutions to this benefice entered in the episcopal records at Norwich.

William Abraham	.	.	.	.	1555	Cap. per.
William Corker	.	.	.	.	1593	Cur.
William Sykes	.	.	.	.	1603	Cur.
Thomas Barker	.	.	.	.	1620	Cur.
Benjamin Capps	.	.	.	.		
Daniel Copland	.	.	.	.	1751	Robert Oneby, Esq.

Prior de Blyburgh habet eam in proprios usus: est ibi capellanus perpetuus. Estimatur eadem ad vij marc. Procuratio vi^s. viij^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis vi^d., et pro termino Paschæ vi^d. Denarij S. Petri vij^d. ob. Norwich Domesday.

Matthew Walter, of this parish, by will, dated 2nd July, 1589, desires to be buried in the church-yard of Blythford, and leaves several gifts of 10s. and 20s. to this and the adjoining parishes, amounting to £10, after certain remainders. Margaret, his relict, was buried at Blythford on the 22nd of June, 1611. She was the widow of H. Baker at the period of her marriage with the testator.

The Will of Matthew Walter.

In the name of God, Amen, 2 July, 1589. I Mattheue Walter of Bliford in Suffolk, do make this my last will, &c., my body to be buried in the churchyard of Bliford aforesaid.

Item, I give and bequeathe unto Margaret my wyef, all my tenements, lands, meadows, feedings, and pastures, with the appurtenances, situate lying and being in Bliford afores^d. which I lately purchased of Thomas Back, to hold to her and her assignes, during the tearme of her natural life; and after her decease, I will that the said tenement, together with all and singular the above recited premises, with the appurtenances and one close lying in Holton, conteyning eighteen acres, which I lately purchased of William Bonnett, and also one meadow with the appurtenances lying in Bulchamp, in the said countye of Suff., shal immediately after the decease of the said Margaret my wief, remain unto John Parker my cosyn, and his heirs and assignes for ever, upon this condition, that is to saye, that the said John Parker, his heyres or assignes, or one of them, shall yearlye and every yeare for ever, after the decease of the said Margaret my wief, paie or cause to be paied unto the pore people of the townes, parishes or hamletts hereafter mentioned the some of ten pounds of lawful money of England, in manner ensuing; that is to saye,

To the pore people of Fersfield, in the countye of Norfolk	.	.	.	.	20 ^s .
Do. of Brissingham, in the same countye	.	.	.	.	20 ^s .
Do. of Holton, in the countye of Suffolk	.	.	.	.	10 ^s .
Do. of Bliford afores ^d .	.	.	.	.	20 ^s .

To the pore people of Hallisworthe	20 ^s .
Do. of Blitheburgh	20 ^s .
Do. of Bulchamp	10 ^s .
Do. of Southwold	20 ^s .
Do. of Reydon by Southwold, in the countye of Suffolk	10 ^s .
Do. of Wangford	20 ^s .
Do. of Henham	10 ^s .
Do. of Uggeshall	10 ^s .
Do. of Stoven	10 ^s .

Otherwise if the sayd John Parker shall make default of payment, of the sayd yearlie payment of ten pounds in manner and forme aforesaid, then I will, and my full mynd and will is, that all the premises shall goe to Basingbourne Parker, brother of the sayd John, and if he makes default then to Mr. Francis Braye, son to Mr. Saynt John Braye, under the same limitations. He gives the profits of his lands at Attleborough and Holton, and the lands called the Oke (except the annuity he gave his wife out of them) to his executors for ten years, to perform his will, and then to be sold to the best price, and the monie thereof cominge, to be equally divided, the one halfe to and amongst my pore kindred, and the other in deeds of charitie by the discretion of my executors.—Item, I give and bequeathe unto Thomas Morse, the son of Anthonie, and to his heirs, all that my meadowe or fen, with all and singular its appurtenances in Uggeshall, to have and to hold to him, his heirs and assignes for ever, upon condition, that he, his heirs or assignes, do yearlie, and every year, after my decease, paie or cause to be paied to the pore people of Uggeshall the somme of 10^s., and for default thereof it is given to Henry Crowfoot the younger, and his heirs for ever, under the same limitations; Nicholas and John Walter, his brothers, Exec.—Thomas Morse of Uggeshall, Supervisor. Witnesses—William Baker, John Neale, William Skott, William Peters. This will was proved at Blithburghe, before Mr. Bartholomewe Styles, Clerk, Surrogate to me John Mapplisden, Archdeacon of Suffolk, 4 Nov^r. 1589.

These legacies are yearly paid to the minister and churchwardens, and are distributed amongst the poor at their discretion. In 1687 the estate belonged to Robert Bradwell, of Westhall, in Suffolk, and in 1736 to Mr. William Crowfoot, of Beccles.

The amount of rent-charge in lieu of tithes is £72. A great part of the parish belonging to the impropiator, the tithes have merged, and there is a farm of eighty-two acres belonging to Mrs. Eleanor Cross, which is free by prescription. According to the late commutation survey, Blythford contains 947 acres, 3 roods, 39 perches.

The population in 1841 amounted to 223.

Bramfield.

ALAN, Earl of Richmond, who married Constance, daughter of William the Conqueror, and obtained from that monarch a grant of four hundred and forty-two manors in England, for his conduct at the battle of Hastings, held Brunfeld in demesne at the

period of the Domesday Survey. Mannus Swart, its Saxon lord, had held Būfeld, that is, Brunfeld, with seven carucates of land, as one manor in the Confessor's time. It seems to have been an important village in those days, as we gather from the following record of its extent and possessions. "There were, in the Confessor's reign, twenty-four villeins, afterwards and now thirty-five. Then five bordarii, afterwards and now seven. Then four servi, afterwards one, and now none. Then four ploughs were kept, afterwards three, and now again four. The tenants always employed ten ploughs. There was wood sufficient for the maintenance of 300 swine, and seven acres of meadow. Then one draught horse was kept, always eight cows, twenty-four swine, and thirty goats. The King and the Earl divided the soc. It was valued at £ 8 in the reign of the Saxon monarch, afterwards at £16, and at the Norman Survey at £15. 13s. 4d. It was one leuca in length, and the same in width. It possessed a church endowed with twenty-eight acres of free land, and half a carucate, valued at 3 shillings."¹

In 1269, John de Vallibus possessed the manor of Bramfield, and obtained a license to hold a market and fair;² and in the following year procured liberty of free-warren here, and in Walpole, Wenhasston, and other manors.³ In this charter he is styled "Johes filius Alexi de Vallibus." In the ninth of Edward I., Nicholas de Segrave held the lordship of Bramfield, and in the fourth of the succeeding reign Walter de Norwich had free-warren, inter alia, for his demesne lands at Bramfield, Wenhasston, Walpole, Shipmeadow, Weston, and Herringewell.⁴ In the fifth of this reign he was made one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer, &c.,⁵ and, dying in the second of Edward III., left this lordship with his other estates to his son, Sir John de Norwich, the founder of Mettingham Castle; who also obtained a charter of free-warren for this manor, and other parts of his vast possessions. By this knight, who died in 1361, the lordships of Bramfield, Mells, Wenhasston, &c., are said to have been settled on his college at Raveningham,⁶ afterwards translated to Mettingham Castle by his grandson. It could have been a mediety only of the manor of Bramfield, because, among the escheats in the fortieth of Edward III., we find that Margery, widow of this Sir John de Norwich, held, at the day of her death, the manors of "Ilketelishall, Skipmedew, Melles, and a mediety of the manor of Bromfeld," with remainder to Walter their son, and the heirs male of his body.⁷ In 1372, Sir John de Norwich, the son of the aforesaid Walter, granted to Sir John de Plays, Sir Robert Howard, and others, his castle of Mettingham, and his manors of Ilketshall, Shipmeadow, Mells, Wenhasston, Bromfeld, &c., after the death of his mother, together with the advowson of the church of Dalingho.⁸ Sir John de

¹ Domesday, fol. 292 b.

² Cart. 54 Hen. III. p. u. m. 3.

³ Id. 55 Hen. III.

⁴ Cart. 4 Ed. II. p. u. m. 44.

⁵ *Vide* vol. i. p. 170.

⁶ Blomefield, art. Raveningham.

⁷ Harl. MSS. 5193.

⁸ Id. 1176.

Norwich died in the year following the date of this deed, seized of Bramfield, &c. Being the last heir male of his family, the manor of Bramfield, with his other estates, descended to Katharine de Brews, his cousin, who had livery of the said lands. This lady, in the forty-ninth of Edward III., confirmed the grants of her ancestors to Raveningham College, soon after translated to Mettingham, whereby the manor of Bramfield, &c., was secured to that monastic establishment.

Katherin de Broouse, consang. et heres Joh. de Norwico, mil., relax. Joh. Plaice, Robto Howard, mil. et aliis, totum jus in castello de Mettingham, et man. de Ilketshall, Schipmedow, Melles, Bromfeld, Wenhaston, &c., et alia in Norf. et Suff.⁹

Katharine de Brews shortly after taking the veil, and becoming a nun at Dartford, in Kent, William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, son and heir of Robert de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, by Margaret his wife, *sister*¹⁰ of Sir Thomas de Norwich, and relict of Sir T. Caily, was found to be next heir.

The manor of Bramfield continued after this period as part of the endowment of Mettingham College until the dissolution of that establishment. On the 14th of April, in the thirty-third of Henry VIII., the King granted it, amongst the other possessions of the college, to Sir Anthony Denny, one of his Privy Council; and by an inquisitio post mortem taken at Bury, on the 16th of April, in the fourth of Edward VI., Sir Anthony was found to have died on the 10th of September preceding, seized of the manor of Bramfield, held of the King in capite.¹¹ It passed by license of alienation, in the fifth of Queen Elizabeth, to Nicholas Bacon; and by an inquisition taken at Bury, on the 2nd of October, in the eleventh of Charles I., upon the death of Philip Bacon, Esq., he was found to have died on the 26th of July, 1635, seized, inter alia, of the manors of Bramfield, alias Bromefield, and Brookehall, &c., held of the King, in capite, by the tenth part of a knight's fee, and forty shillings rent.¹² The manor of Bramfield afterwards became vested in the Rous family, of Henham Hall, where it continues; the Right Hon. the Earl of Stradbroke being the present lord.

⁹ Harl. MSS. 971, &c.

¹⁰ I here take the opportunity of correcting an error in the pedigree of the family of De Norwich, given in page 171 of the first volume, wherein this Margaret is made to be *daughter* of Sir John de Norwich, who died in 1361, which she could not have been; for if she had, her son would have been the heir of Sir John, who died in 1373; whereas his heir was Katharine de Brews.

"Non ego paucis
Offendar maculis, quas aut incuria fudit,
Aut humana parum cavit natura."

¹¹ Cole's Esch. vol. v. p. 27.

¹² Id. vol. vii. p. 39.

THE MANOR OF BROOK HALL

in Bramfield is so called from its old manor-house built near the banks of a rivulet, which, intersecting the village, flows under D'Ufford's bridge at Wenhaston, and falls into the Blythe, just above the ruins of Blythborough Priory. The only approach to this mansion in former days, was up the water-course from which it derived its name. This lordship appears to have formed parcel of the possessions of Mettingham College, and was granted on the dissolution to Sir Anthony Denny, and alienated by Henry Denny, Esq., who held it of the Crown, in capite, to Nicholas Bacon, Esq., in the fifth of Queen Elizabeth. In 1635, it was the property of Philip Bacon, who held it with the manor of Bramfield. It is now the lordship of the Earl of Stradbroke, and passes with the former, under the title of the manor of Bramfield with Brook Hall, alias Stonham's. In a register belonging to Mettingham College, and lately in the possession of Peter Le Neve, Esq., was "*extenta maner. de Bramfield et Brook Hall, ibidem facta, 18 Edward 4th.*"¹³ The estate formerly attached to the latter manor is now alienated from the lordship. In a map, dated 1720, when the domain belonged to Robert Watts, Esq., of Bury, is a drawing of the old hall. It has a community of character with the brick mansions erected in this county during the latter portion of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Two gables, projecting from the extreme angles of the front, flank a central porch which gave access to the great hall, which was here of ample dimensions and picturesque effect, being forty feet in length by thirty-two in breadth, and rising to the entire height of the mansion. The estate passed from the tenure of Mr. Watts to Francis Stray, Esq., of Bury, and was purchased, in 1801, by Mr. Thomas Page, the father of the present possessor of the same name. The old house was taken down in 1805, when a modern mansion, called Brook Hall, was erected about a mile northwards of the ancient site. In the old house resided Arthur Coke, third son of Sir Edward Coke, Knt., Lord Chief Justice of England, who lies buried with his wife beneath a sumptuous monument of marble in the chancel of Bramfield church.

It is a remarkable circumstance that the poll-tax—the collection of which in the reign of Richard II. led to Wat Tyler's insurrection—had continued to be levied in this parish till the year 1805. The claim of four-pence per head upon all individuals over twelve years of age had been annually paid to the vicar, till the above period, when it was resisted by Mr. Page, and, after a slight effort on the part of the Rev. William Clifton, then incumbent, to enforce its continuance, was finally relinquished.

¹³ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

In the third of Elizabeth, Sir George Howard, Knt., held lands in Bramfield of the Queen, as of her manor of East Greenwich, in Kent, in free soccage, and not in capite, &c.

The principal mansion in the village, though unconnected with the manor, is Bramfield Hall, the residence of the Rev. Reginald Rabett, M. A., lord of the manor of Kettlebars, in Cretingham, and vicar of Thornton cum Bagworth, in the county of Leicester. This gentleman is the eldest son and heir of the late Reginald Rabett, Esq., by Mary his wife, only sister of the present General Sir Edward Kerrison, Bart., M. P., grandson of Reginald Rabett, Esq., of Bramfield Hall and Huntingfield, High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1778, by Mary Newton his wife, and great grandson of Reginald Rabett, Esq., of Bramfield Hall, High Sheriff of the county in 1737. The family is said to be of Norman extraction, and has been connected with Suffolk for at least four hundred years, Willielmus Rabett occurring as Member in Parliament for Dunwich in 1467, the eighth of Edward IV.

In 1562, Henry and Anthony Denny, Esqrs., alienated to Reginald Rabett and his heirs certain estates in Bramfield; and in the fourteenth of Elizabeth, Walter Norton, Esq., sold divers lands, tenements, and hereditaments to Reginald Rabett, gentleman, in Bramfield, Thorington, Darsham, and Hinton. The present representative of this ancient line married Mary, eldest daughter of Richard Bickerton, of Roden, in the county of Salop, of an old family of that name, related to the late Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton, Bart. His brother, Commander George William Rabett, R.N., married the Lady Lucy Louisa-Maria Turnour, second daughter of the late Earl of Winterton. Mary Rabett, his only sister, is the wife of Lord Viscount Maynard. Arms: Arg. a chev. sab. charged with five guttees d'or, between three rabbits' heads coupéd of the second—impaling Bickerton, sab. on a chev. arg. three pheons of the field.

In the grounds immediately surrounding Bramfield Hall, and within a few yards of the present highway, stood, till a very recent period, a celebrated forest tree, known for centuries as the Bramfield oak. It would be impossible to ascertain precisely the age of this venerable tree, which must have exceeded a thousand years; for we find it recorded as a way-mark to Roger Bigod in his flight from the King to his castle of Bungay in the year 1174—which proves it to have been a noted tree nearly seven hundred years ago.

In 1832 this "king of the forest" had three main branches, the largest of which had fallen when the drawing was made, by Mr. Rabett, from which our illustration is engraved. It stood thus mutilated and scathed till the 15th of June, 1843, when, on a calm sultry day,—without a breeze to moan its fate,—it fell from sheer decay, with a most appalling crash, enveloping its prostrate form with clouds of dust. The exact dimensions of this remarkable tree have not been preserved, but it was asserted at the time of its fall, that a similar bulk of sound timber would have fetched about eighty

pounds. The ballad from which the following verses are quoted marks the exact route anciently pursued by travellers from London to the extremities of the county of Suffolk.



When the Baily had ridden to Bramfield oak,
Sir Hugh was at Ilksall bower;
When the Baily had ridden to Halesworth cross,
He was singing in Bungay tower, &c.¹⁴

Thus Sir Hugh Bigod rides from "Essex whereat he lay" to Ipswich. Thence to Ufford and merry Saxmundham. Then Bramfield oak points the way to Halesworth Cross, where, leaving the present turnpike road to Bungay on the right, Bigod proceeds over Rumburgh Green, and past the monastery there, to "Ilksall Bower," and thence to his castle of Bungay. Of the Ilksall Bower, I believe no traces are visible, though it was known to school-boys about half a century since; the most adventurous of whom were accustomed on birds'-nesting explorations to creep into a subterraneous arched passage, which my informant¹⁵ tells me was then known by this name, and which he fancies to have been situated in the parish of St. Margaret, and not very far distant from the back of Flixton Hall.

¹⁴ *Vide* vol. i. p. 135.

¹⁵ Mr. Thomas Page, of Bramfield.

On an eminence immediately in front of Bramfield Hall are traces of earth-works surrounded by a moat. The site is known as the Castle-yard, and is laid down as such in an old map of the parish, made above a century ago. I cannot find, however, in any record, the remotest allusion to a castle here, and fancy the name to have been applied, within a comparatively modern period, to an encampment of our aboriginal ancestors, which I take this to be. About five or six years since, twelve large celts were discovered, not far from this spot, lying in a circle, within which were eight smaller ones. They laid very near the surface of the earth, and were turned up by a plough.

The tithes of Bramfield were early appropriated to Blythborough Priory, and in the register of Sibton Abbey mention is made of William, perpetual vicar of the church of Bromfeld, in 1189. The prior and convent presented to the vicarage, which retained a manse, and two acres only of glebe, out of the ample Saxon endowment of twenty-eight.¹⁶ The family of Hopton, to whom the possessions of Blythborough Priory were granted on its dissolution, presented till the reign of James I., when the patronage of the vicarage was claimed by the Crown.¹⁷ Sir Arthur Hopton obtained the impropriation in the thirtieth of Henry VIII. It lately belonged to William Plumer, Esq., and is now held by Mr. Robert Haward.

THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Andrew, comprises a nave and chancel, without aisles, and is covered with thatch. It is a pure example of the early decorated style of ecclesiastical architecture, and is worthy of considerable attention. Though its general plan and outline are plain, its doors, windows, and minuter ornaments, are all finely designed and freely carved. In the interior are two piscinas. That in the chancel—now filled with a modern monumental slab—is distinguished by a triangular canopy, terminated with a bold finial. Fragments of painted glass in the east window, evidently, by the style of their canopies, coeval with the fabric, prove that the original decorations were costly and complete. The chancel is entered from the nave by a descent of one step, beneath a rich screen, much of the original painting and gilding of which remains in tolerable preservation. It still supports the ancient rood-loft—very few examples of which are entire in Suffolk. Amongst the wills in the Bishop's office at Norwich is a legacy, without date, "to the emending the good rode and his Aungels." If the boarding of the pews, which are nailed to its lower panels, were removed, we should probably be presented with several specimens of ancient painting, similar to that at Blundeston. Should the revival of taste introduce the open benches of oak into Bramfield church, the coming generation may be thus gratified. A good font of stone occupies its ancient position near the west end of the nave. An old worm-eaten chest in the chancel

¹⁶ Norwich Domesday.

¹⁷ Lib. Instit. Norwic.



Drawn by Alfred Suckling.

F. Bedford Litho. London.

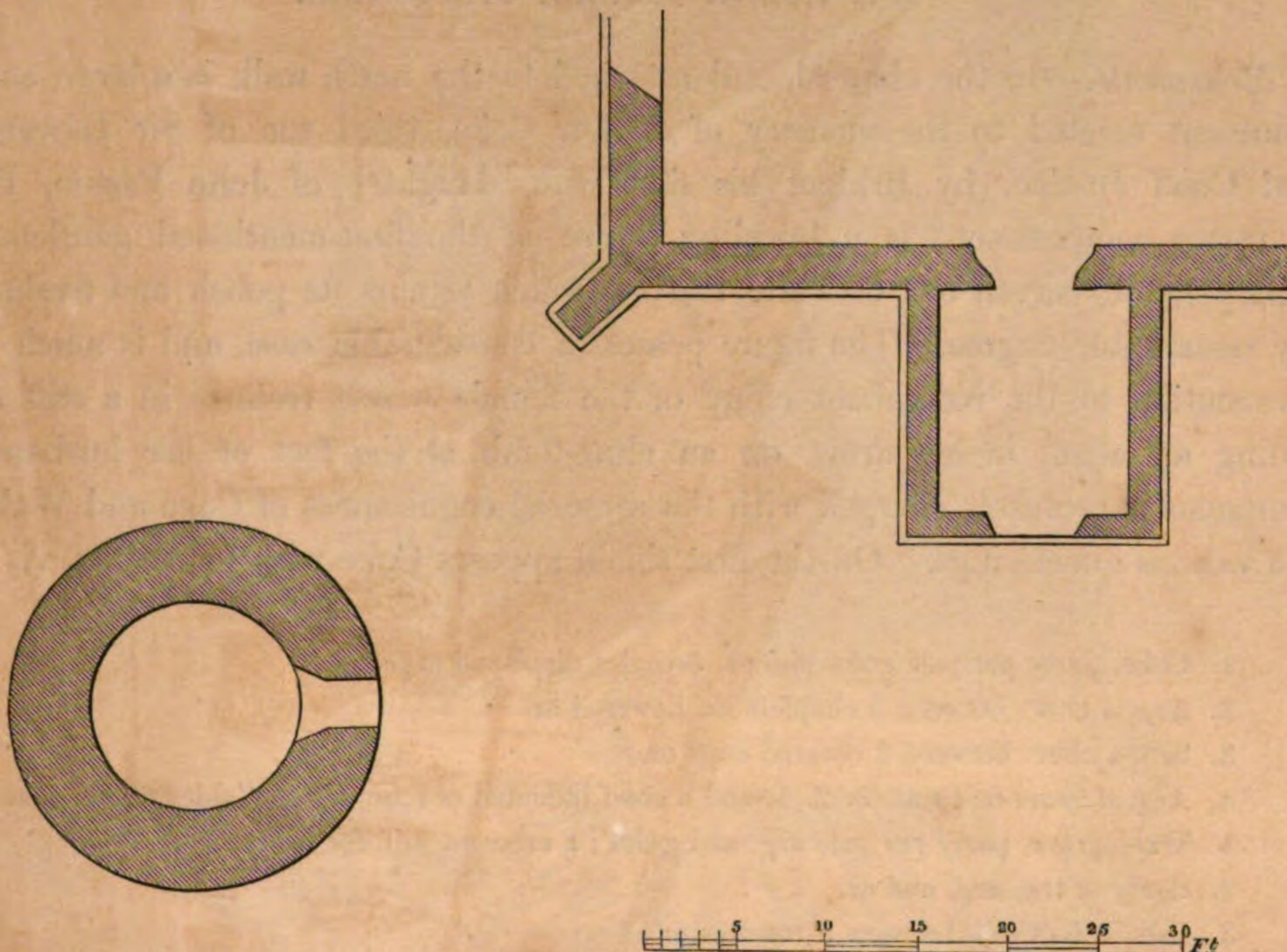
BRAMFIELD CHURCH. FROM THE S. E.

London, Published by the Author.

Printed by Sandilands & Co.

contains an iron skull-cap, with some breast and back-pieces, of the time of Charles I. No legend is connected with them.

But the detached situation of the circular bell-tower, which stands about six yards from the south-west angle of the nave, attracts more general attention than any other feature connected with this edifice, and has given rise to much speculation as to the cause of its rather singular position.



A careful examination of its interior and exterior walls leads the writer to the following conclusions. That the original Saxon church recorded in Domesday Book was probably an humble building without a steeple; that this was subsequently erected, but never attached to it, as the external face of the flint-work shows no marks of the ruggedness or fractures which would have remained, had other walls been affixed. That when the Convent of Blythborough contemplated the building of a new church here, the present edifice was erected apart from the older tower, as being more complete in itself, than it would have been if attached to a steeple of a different period, and of an incongruous style. That the tower, which was not then a century old—for the acute arches of its loop-hole windows, and the admixture of bricks with its flint-work, as seen in the interior, prove it a *late* specimen of the round towers of East Anglia—was too massy and durable to be destroyed, and therefore received, upon the completion of the church, some general repairs, and a new west doorway in a style corresponding with those in the nave

and chancel. Like all the circular steeples of East Anglia, the foundation walls occupy about one-half of the diameter. They are here full five feet thick, leaving only a clear interior of ten feet ten inches. The belfry is furnished with five bells, two of which bear the date of 1621: one is dedicated to St. Michael, another bears an invocation to St. Margaret, and the fifth has this more appropriate legend:

Sit nomen Domini benedictum.

Monuments.—In the chancel, and attached to the north wall, is a large and costly monument erected to the memory of Arthur Coke, third son of Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice, by Bridget his first wife, daughter of John Paston, Esq. In the upper compartment is a kneeling figure of the first-mentioned gentleman in a military habit, carved out of white marble, which retains its polish and freshness in a very remarkable degree. The figure possesses considerable ease, and is much superior in execution to the recumbent effigy of the female which reclines in a stiff attitude, holding an infant in her arms, on an altar-tomb at the feet of her husband. The monument is profusely charged with the armorial cognizances of Coke and Waldegrave, with various quarterings. On the first shield appears Coke with four coats, viz.

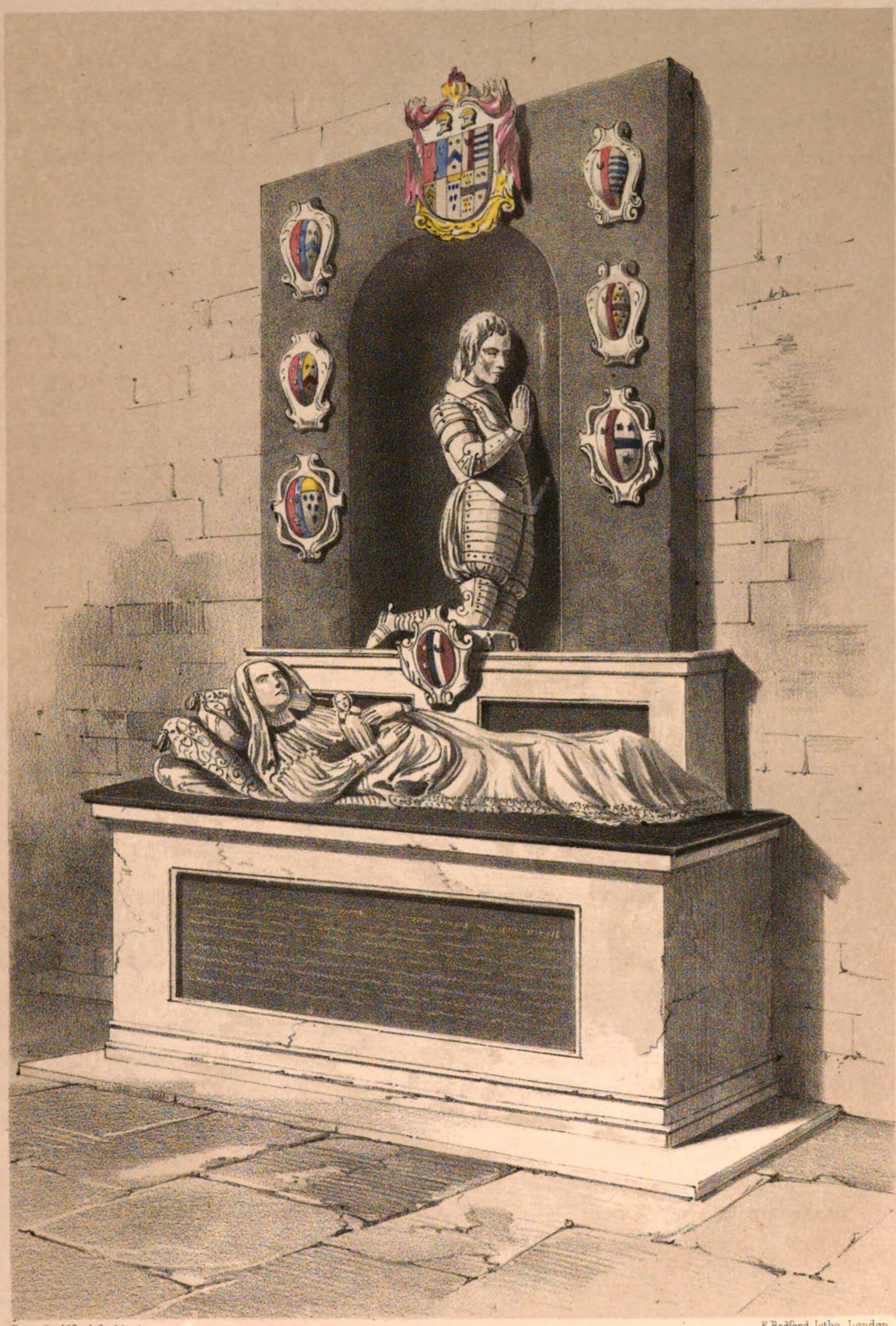
1. Coke, party per pale gules and az. 3 eagles displayed argent.
2. Arg. a chev. between 3 chaplets az. flowered or.
3. Sab. a chev. between 3 covered cups or.
4. Arg. 6 fleurs-de-lis az. 3. 2. 1. and a chief indented or; impaling Waldegrave of four coats.
1. Waldegrave, party per pale arg. and gules; a crescent sab. for difference.
2. Barry of ten, arg. and az.
3. Erm. a fess sab. between 3 rosettes or.
4. Arg. a fess between 3 mullets azure.

The inscription is as follows:

Here lyeth byried Arthor Coke, Esq., third sonne of Sir Edward Coke, Knight, late Lord Chiefe Jvstice of England, and of the Privye Counsell of Kinge James. Here lyeth also buried in the same tombe, Elizabeth, daughter and sole Heire Apparent of Sir George Waldegrave, Knight, wch Elizabeth, christianly and peaceably departed this life the 14th day of November, Anno Dni 1627. And the said Arthor likewise christianly and peaceably departed this life at Bury St. Edmunds, in this county of Suffolk, on the 6th day of December, 1629.

They had issue betweene them, livinge at their deceases, foure daughters, viz.:—Elizabeth, Mary, Winifred, and Theophila, whom Almighty God prosper and protect.

There are several monuments to the family of Nelson, once of some account in this parish, which for quaint inscriptions are perhaps unparalleled.



Drawn by Alfred Suckling.

F. Bedford latho London.

BRAMFIELD CHURCH,
MONUMENT OF ARTHUR COKE, ESQ.

London, Published by the Author
Printed by Standidge & Co.

Between the remains of her brother Edward,
 And of her husband Arthur,
 Here lies the body of Bridgett Applewhaite,
 Once Bridgett Nelson.
 After the fatigues of a married life,
 Borne by her with incredible patience
 For four years and three quarters, bating three weeks,
 And after the enjoiment of the glorious freedom
 Of an easy and unblemisht widowhood,
 For four years and upwards,
 She resolved to run the risk of a second marriage bed,
 But death forbad the banns :
 And having with an apoplectick dart,
 (The same instrument with which he had formerly
 Dispatched her mother,)
 Touch't the most vital part of her brain,
 She must have fallen directly to the ground,
 (As one thunder-strook,)
 If she had not been catch't and supported
 by her intended husband.
 Of which invisible bruise,
 After a struggle for above sixty hours
 With that grand enemy to life,
 (But the certain and merciful friend to helpless old age,)
 In terrible convulsions, plaintive groans, or stupefying sleep,
 Without recovery of her speech or senses,
 She died on the 12th day of Sept. in the year of our Lord 1737,
 And of her own age 44.

Maria, daughter of Reginald Rabett, Gent., and wife of Lambert Nelson, Gent., died 4th August, 1710, æt. 50. Lambert Nelson was buried October 4th, 1714, æt. 54. He had by Mary Rabett, his wife, four children : Lambert, buried before his father ; Bridget, Anne, and Edward. He was a man of bright parts, sound judgment, good breeding, and pleasant conversation, master of the learned languages, yet a valuable and right honest attorney. He was second to none in the strokes of the pen or turns of witt : a true son of the church, and a conscientious subject of the Crown of England. In either of which capacities he was fit for any employment, had he been less reserved himself, or better known in time to any great Minister, whose height might expose him to the necessity of leaning sometimes upon so steady a propp, and the bosom of so resolute a confidant.

The body of Mrs. Bridget Nelson, born in this parish, June 26th, 1672, was buried here, September the 19th, 1731. Though never married, she freely underwent the care of a wife and a mother, and often the fatigues of a true friend, for any of her

acquaintances in sickness or distress. She was a devout member of the established church; charitable, prudent, chaste, active, and remarkably temperate, yet often afflicted with great sicknesses, and for above three years before her death with a dropsy, of which she died after having been tapped five times.

Edward Nelson, obt. 2 Maij, 1726, æt. 27. On a tablet inserted in the arch of the piscina beneath the arms of Nelson,—party per pale arg. and sab. a chev. between 3 fleurs-de-lis counterchanged—is this memorial.

Edward Nelson, died 18 Nov. 1744, 74 years and 263 days old.

Mary, the wife of Edward Nelson, after 23 years of married life was left a mournful widow, died 23rd August, 1681, æt. 47. Arms: Nelson impales Edgar. Per chevron or and az.; in chief 2 fleurs-de-lis az., in base 5 lozenges or, each charged with an escallop shell gules. Edward, son of Matthew Nelson, citizen of London, and Anne his wife, daughter of Roger Aldredge, died 10th October, 1681, æt. 58.

Arthur Applethwaite, second son of Henry Applethwaite, of Huntingfield, Gent., who was favourite and bailiff to Henry Heveningham, Henry Heron, and John Bence, deceased, and remains so to Alexander Bence, and George Dashwood, all esquires, and successively owners of the Heveningham Hall estate, died 9th September, 1733, æt. 39. He married Bridget, eldest daughter, and at length sole heiress of Lambert Nelson, late of this parish, Gentleman, by whom he had no issue, and to whom, having by his father's instigation made no will, he left no legacy, but a chancery suit with his eldest brother for her own paternal estates in this town and in Blyford. Mary, wife of John Rabett, Esq., and daughter of John Cornwallis, of Wingfield, Esq., died March 4th, 1718, aged 53. John Rabett, son of Reginald Rabett, and Mary his wife, eldest daughter of John Hayne, late of Islington, in Middlesex, died 25th September, 1702, æt. 39. Bridget, daughter of Henry Edgar, of Dynington, Gent., and wife of Lambert Rabett, interred in the church there, died 8th January, 1680, æt. 81. Reginald, son of Lambert Rabett, and Bridget his wife, died 25th July, 1686, æt. 61. George, youngest son of John Rabett, of Bramfield Hall, died 29th December, 1765, æt. 70. Mary, wife of John Rabett, daughter of John Cornwallis, died 4th March, 1718, æt. 53.

John Rabett, eldest son of Reginald Rabett, late of this parish, died 25th September, 1702, æt. 39. Elizabeth, wife of Reginald Rabett, died 15th July, 1760, æt. 68. Reginald, her husband, died 25th January, 1763, æt. 70. Rev. J. Rabett, his youngest son, died January 8th, 1763, æt. 39. Reginald Rabett, Esq., of Bramfield Hall, died 30th of May, 1810, aged 39. Mary, his wife, died 22nd February, 1832, aged 59.

In Dowsing's Journal, 1643, is the following notice of his visit to Bramfield church. "April the 9th. Twenty-four superstitious pictures; one crucifix, and pic-

ture of Christ; and twelve Angels on the roof; and divers Jesus's, in capital letters; and the steps to be levelled, by Sir Robert Brook."

VICARS OF BRAMFIELD.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert de Culston, de Halyweston	1308	Prior and Conv. of Blythburgh.
Hamo de Sutho	1322	Id.
Clement de Donewico . . .	1333	Id.
William Gonneld	1365	Id.
John Sunham	1395	Id.
William Sunham, de Mendham .	1399	Id.
John Elyot, de Cudworth . .	1424	Id.
Walter Dyke	1457	Id.
Robert Harman	1478	Id.
Richard Couper	1479	Id.
Richard Craneworth		
William Wuley	1490	Id.
Robert Harrison	1514	Id.
Nicholas Thirling	1546	Rich. Freston, Esq., and John Cooke.
Richard Jay	1562	Owen Hopton, Knt.
John Watling	1567	Id.
John Deny	1569	Id.
Walter Corher	1587	Arthur Hopton, Esq.
The same	1610	The King.
Itchingham Loftes		
Thomas Wright	1642	Id.
William Evans	1661	Id.
John Catchpoole	1695	Id.
Philip Wilkinson	1717	Id.
Benjamin Taylor	1730	Id.
Charles Mabourn	1737	Id.
Thomas Weston	1758	Id.
William Clifton	1784	Id.
Christopher Mason	1830	Id.
Nicholas Simons	1846	The Queen.

Prior de Blyburgh habet eam in proprios usus. Vicarius ejusdem habet mansum cum duabus acris terræ. Estimatio rectoriæ xx marc. Estimatio vicariæ illius vi marc. dq. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis vi^d., et pro Paschali termino vi^d. Denarij S. Petri, xij^d.

The registers commence in 1539. The total area of the parish amounts to 2546 acres, 3 r. 25 p.; of which about four acres are glebe. The great tithes have been commuted at £420, and the vicarial at £210. The population in 1841 comprised 746 souls.

Charities.—Thomas Neale, by will, dated in 1701, directed his widow and executrix to cause a town house to be erected and fitted up in Bramfield for the habitation of four poor persons or families; so that each of the said persons or families might have a room and other reasonable conveniences. And he desired the said house to be employed for the habitation of four poor and aged single persons; and if there should not be enough of such, then for married couples without children; and that one of the persons inhabiting in the house, should teach six poor children of the town to read the Bible; if one of them should be found capable so to do. And he gave the yearly sum of £ 3, to be employed in paying such one of the said persons to teach the said children. And he declared that the children should be those of parents who, whilst living, took constant relief of the parish; or in default of such, then of parents who, whilst living, took relief of the parish when sick, or occasionally; or in default of such, then of parents the most poor or wicked. He also left the yearly sum of ten shillings to buy Bibles, and other religious books, for the children; and he charged the said sum of £ 3. 10s. a year upon his real estate, therein mentioned, in this parish, now the property of Mr. Robert Haward, by whom the rent-charge is paid. Mary, the widow of the testator, afterwards the wife of John Fowle, Esq., in 1708, left by will £100, to be laid out in the purchase of land: the rents thereof to be applied for repairing the almshouse, to be built pursuant to the will of the said Thomas Neale; and when there should be no occasion to repair the almshouse, then to be distributed amongst the poor widows of the parish, or to be applied to put out poor children of the parish as apprentices. Elizabeth Archer, by her will, dated in 1716, gave £ 80, for purchasing land; the rent of which to be applied towards teaching poor children of the parish to read, and to give each of them a Bible, when they could read it. An almshouse was erected, pursuant to the above directions, which contains eight rooms, inhabited by eight poor persons. There is also a school-room in Bramfield, appropriated or belonging to the charity, which was built at the expense of the parishioners. The sums bequeathed by Mary Fowle and Elizabeth Archer appear to have been expended in the purchase of a small farm in the parish of Metfield; comprising a house, barn, and ten acres and a half of land: rent £13 per annum. The town estate at Bramfield is a cottage and two acres of land, being copyhold of the manor of Bramfield, and rented at £ 8 per annum, which is applied in addition to the income arising from the almshouse and the school charities.

Brampton.

BRAMPTON is situated on the turnpike road from Beccles to Halesworth, and contains 2002 acres, 1 rood, and 5 perches of land, with a population of 322 souls. In the Domesday Survey its name is written Bramtun and Brantun, which probably signifies the burnt town, and might record among our Saxon ancestors some awful conflagration which resulted here from the incursion of the Danes, or other piratical hordes, who in remote times infested the adjacent coasts. Neither history nor tradition, I believe, has noticed such an occurrence, but the hypothesis is far from unreasonable.

When the Conqueror's Survey was compiled, this village comprised three principal estates, of which one only was considered a manor. This had been the lordship, in Saxon times, of Padda, but was then held by Robert de Curcunde, as parcel of the vast possessions granted to Roger Bigot by the successful monarch. Here were two carucates of land with two villeins and six bordars, held in demesne; and two other carucates occupied by the tenants. It contained wood for six swine, one acre only of meadow, fourteen swine, and twenty-four sheep, and was valued at forty shillings. To this manor were added nine free-men, and half a carucate of land. Padda had employed five ploughs on his demesne lands, but the Norman owner only three. The King and Earl Bigot divided the soc.¹

Ralph Bainard's estate was the next in value; and to this was attached the patronage of the church. In the Confessor's reign, eleven free-men resided herein, though there were but ten at the Survey. There were two carucates and sixty acres of land. The eight Saxon bordars were increased to seventeen by the Norman, who, however, employed only seven ploughs, while his predecessor had kept nine. Here was wood sufficient for the maintenance of twenty swine, and two acres of meadow; valued before the Conquest at thirty shillings, which had increased to forty. The King and the Earl held the soc by exchange. On the same property one socman occupied two carucates of land, with two villeins, eight bordars, and three ploughs. He had wood for three swine, and two acres of meadow, valued at thirty shillings. The church was endowed with sixteen acres of glebe, the value of which was estimated at sixteen pence.²

The third estate in Brampton was retained by William the Conqueror, and was in the hands of William de Noers, one of his stewards. In the reign of Edward

¹ Domesday, 331 b.

² Idem, 414.

the Confessor, Turstan, a free Saxon, had held it under the protection of Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury. This primate is famous in history for having resisted the power of William the Norman, whom he designated a murderer and usurper, and refused to crown; the consequences of which boldness were the deprivation of his dignities and the confiscation of his estates. His forfeited property here was small; containing only a carucate of land, with half an acre of meadow; wood for three swine; one draught horse, two swine, and twelve sheep; valued at only four shillings.³

In 1257, Philip Bocland obtained license of free-warren in Brampton, Stoven, Willingham, Soterley, and Shaddingfield.⁴ He does not, however, appear to have held the manor, which, in 1270, belonged to Alan de Wymondale, who obtained, in that year, a charter from Henry III. to hold a market and a fair, and to exercise free-warren in his manor of Brampton, *inter alia*.⁵ In the ninth of Edward II., it was the lordship of Robert de Seafeld; after which period the manorial history of this parish is rather obscure. In 1323, Robert de Faleyse of Dunwich was patron of the church, which was presented to, soon after, by William de Ergham, and by the families of Bradenham, Ashfield, Philip, Garneys, and De Clyf, in succession, till the reign of Henry VI., when William De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, occurs as patron. The lordship was soon after held by the family of Belley, or Bolley; for John Bolley, by his last will, dated 29th December, 1451, leaves his manor of Brampton, alias Brampton Hall, in Suffolk, to be sold.⁶ Of this gentleman's executors it was purchased by the Townshends of Rainham, in Norfolk, whose interests continued here about a century.

John Townshend, Esq., second son of Sir Roger Townshend, Justice of the Common Pleas, resided for the most part on this property, though it would appear he was not in possession of the manor, as the church was presented to, during his tenure, by his elder brother, Sir Roger Townshend. This John Townshend, Esq., married Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Heydon, of Baconsthorpe, in Norfolk, Knight of the Bath, and died on the 4th of August, 1540, before his brother, Sir Roger. His eldest son, Richard, who was found to be his heir, and of the age of twenty-two at his father's death, continued to reside at Brampton. By Catharine, his wife, third daughter and coheiress of Sir Humphrey Brown, of Ridley, in Cheshire, a Justice of the Common Pleas, he had a daughter, Elizabeth, married to Thomas Godsolve, Esq., of Bokenham Ferry, in Norfolk; and a son, Roger, who was constituted heir to Sir Roger Townshend, his great uncle, by that knight's will, dated in 1550. This Roger Townshend, the nephew, was a minor at his father's decease, which occurred on the

³ Domesday, 288.

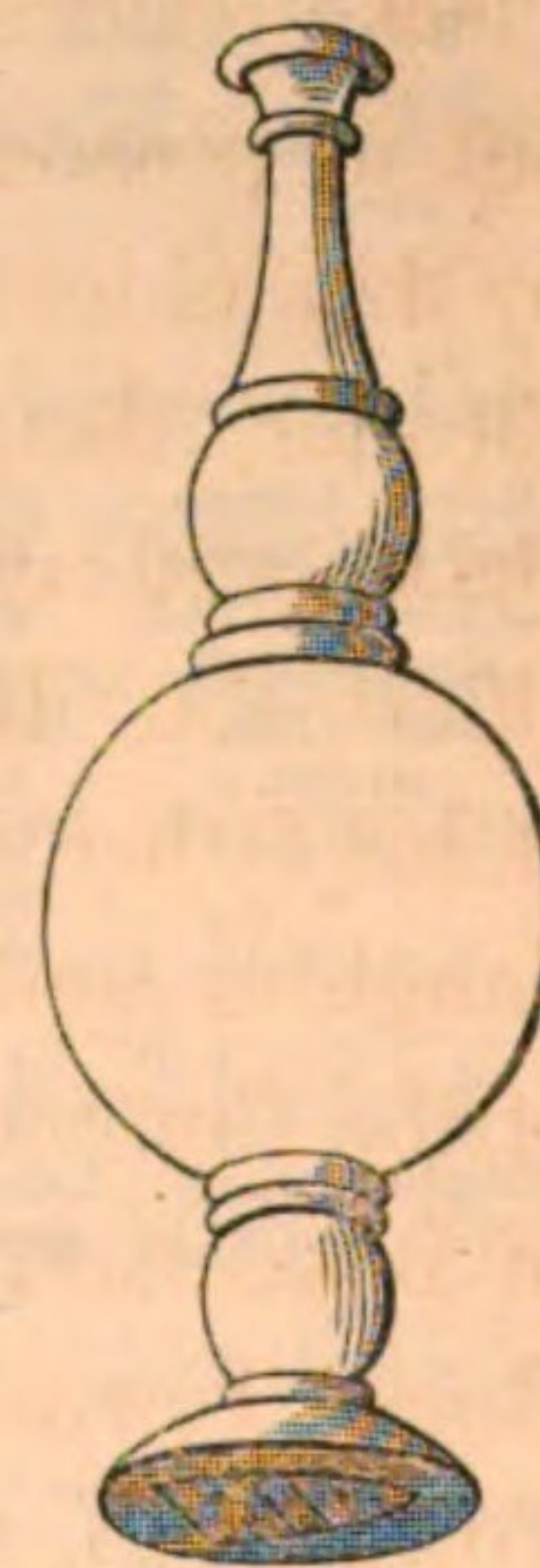
⁵ Cart. 55 Hen. III. p. u. m. 10.

⁴ Cart. 42 Hen. III. p. u. m. 1.

⁶ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

9th of May, 1552. He proved his age in 1564; and in 1588, we find him engaged in the English fleet against the Spanish armada. On the 26th of July, in the same year, he was knighted at sea, by Charles Howard, the Lord High Admiral. He presented to Brampton in 1577, and died at Newington, on the 30th of June, 1590. Two years after, John Elmer, or Aylmer, Bishop of London, and Samuel Aylmer, Gentleman, were joint lords and patrons. By an inquisitio post mortem, taken at Bury, on the 13th of December, in the forty-first of Elizabeth, the Bishop was found to die on the 5th of July, in the 36th of this Queen's reign, seized of the manor of Brampton, held of Thomas Playters, Esq., as of his manor of Uggeshall, by the fourth part of one knight's fee; and valued at £10.⁷ In 1601, the assigns of the aforesaid Samuel Aylmer presented to the church. In 1606, Sir John Leman, then Sheriff of London, was lord and patron of Brampton. This knight, who was born at Saxlingham, in Norfolk, in 1544, was the founder of the Free School in Beccles, which he endowed by will in 1631, with estates now producing nearly £200 per annum.⁸ He served the office of Lord Mayor of London in 1616, and sustained the dignities of that situation with great splendour. "In 1617, a considerable number of Lords, and others of the King's most Honourable Privy Council, his Majesty then being in Scotland, after hearing a sermon preached at St. Mary Spittle, London, by the Rev. Dr. Page, of Deptford, afterwards rode with Sir John Leman, Fishmonger, then Lord Mayor of London, to his house near Billingsgate, where they were entertained with a most splendid dinner. In honour of Sir John, and his brother fishmongers, Anthony Monday wrote his 'Chrysonaleia, or Golden Fishing.'"⁹ In the same year a curious poem on the subject of the Gunpowder Plot was dedicated to Sir John as "being the high-topt cedar of Lebanon, chief magistrate of the famous city of London." This inflated production is entitled 'Mischief's Myserie; or, Treason's Master-piece; the Powder Plot, invented by hellish malice; prevented by Heavenly mercy; truly related, and from the Latin of the learned and Reverend Doctour Herring, translated and very much dilated by John Vicars.'¹⁰

There is a three-quarter portrait of Sir John Leman in his magisterial robes, and wearing the gold chain of civic presidency, in the dining-room at Brampton Hall, most probably painted during the year of his mayoralty. The Rev. George Orgill Leman, his representative, is also in possession of the knight's gold thumb-ring, and his silver seal.



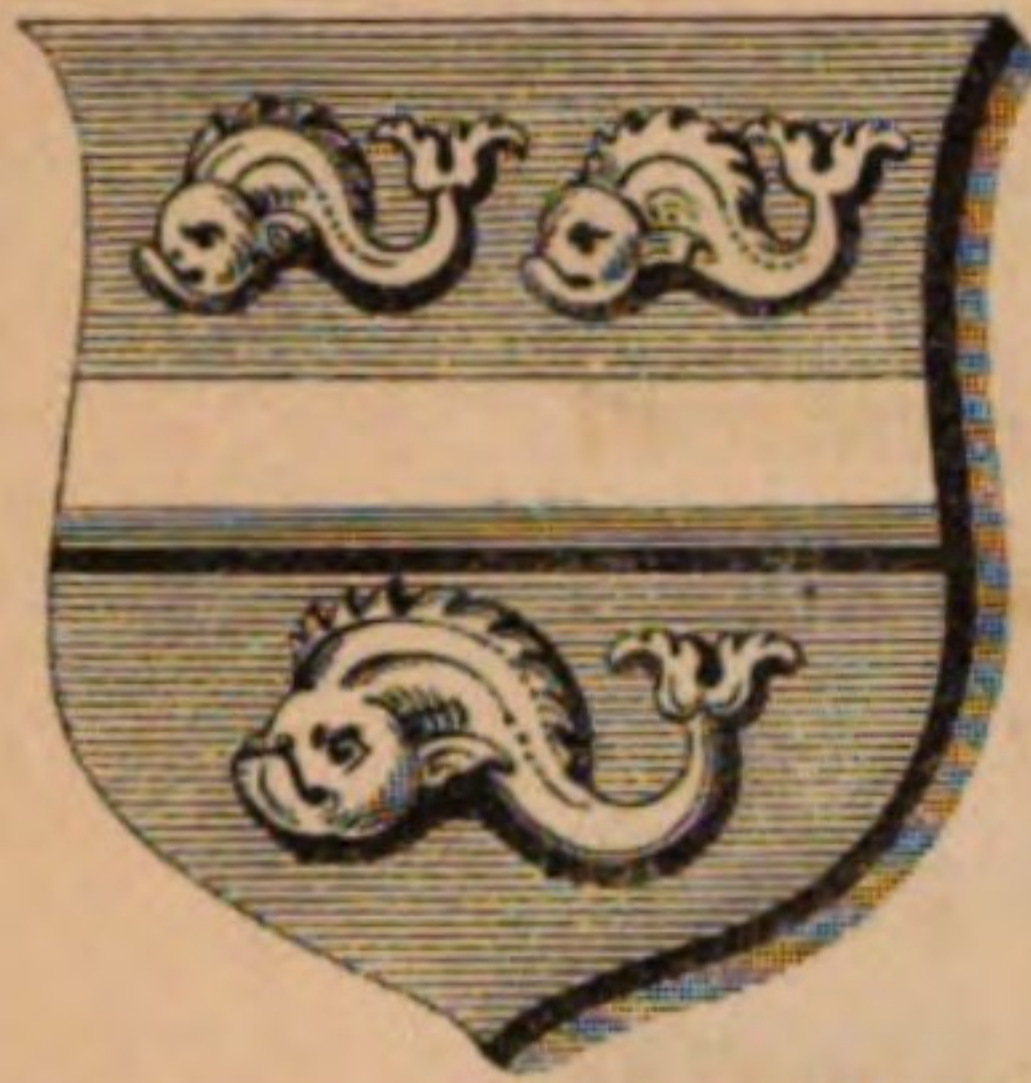
⁷ Cole's Esch. vol. iv. p. 209.

⁸ *Vide* vol. i. p. 31.

⁹ Pennant's London.

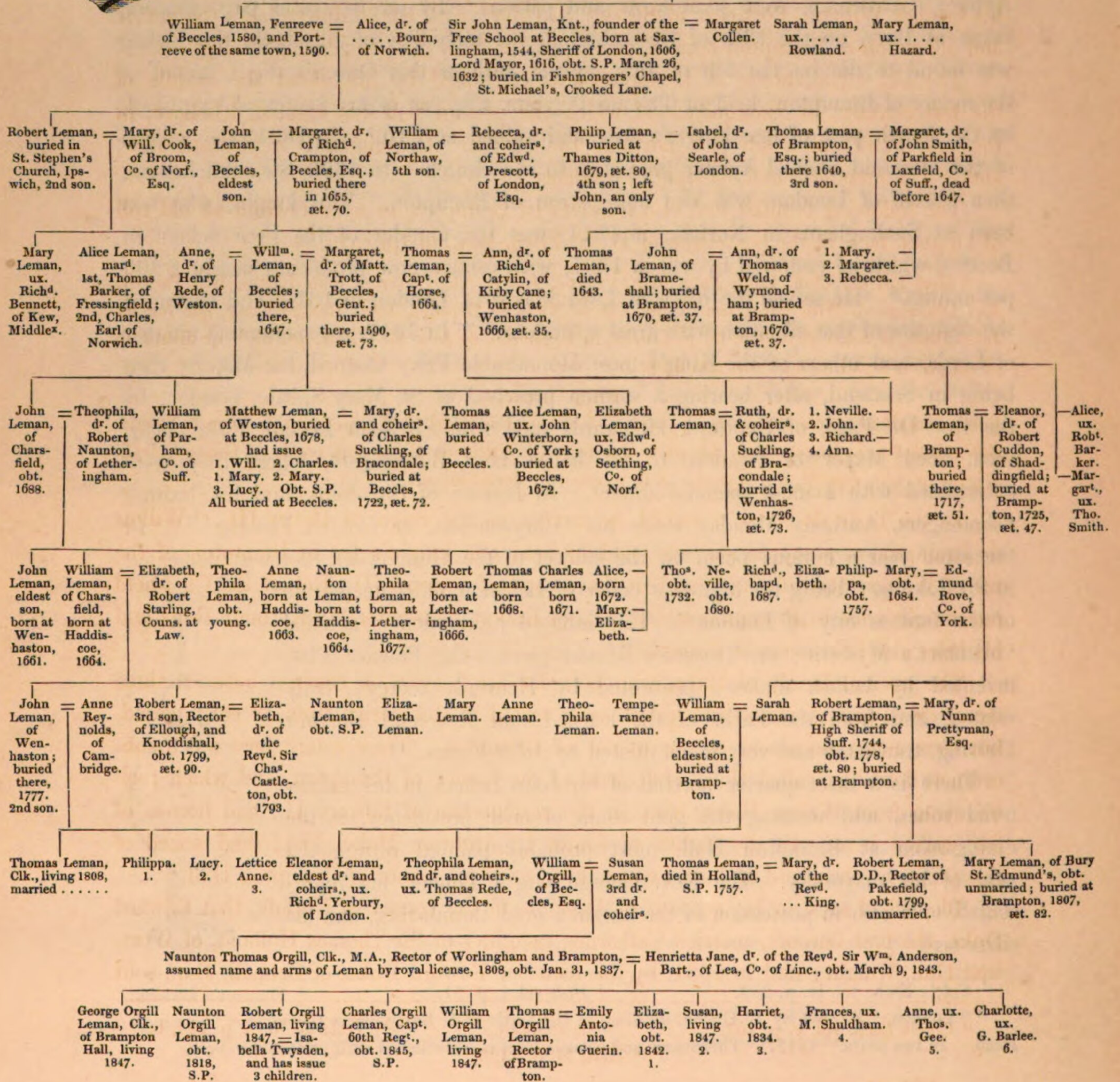
¹⁰ 'London. Printed by L. Griffin, dwelling in the Little Olde Bayly, neare the signe of the King's Head. In two parts. 1617.' This scarce and curious tract is embellished with various wood-cuts.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE



Leman.

John Leman, of Gillingham, Co. of Norfolk, =
and Beccles, Co. of Suff., living temp. Ed. VI.



By an inquisition, taken at Beccles, on the 17th of September, in the ninth of Charles I., Sir John Leman was found to die on the 26th of March, in the seventh of that King's reign, seized of the manor of Brampton, and the advowson of the church, held of the manor of Uggleshall, by fealty, and two shillings rent; and valued at sixty shillings.¹¹ Sir John left no issue, and was succeeded in his Suffolk estates by a son of his brother William, Portreeve of Beccles, in 1590; with whose descendants the manor and advowson of Brampton remain, as is apparent from the preceding genealogy.

The old manor-house at Brampton was consumed by fire about the middle of the last century, in consequence of which the present hall was erected, I believe, in the year 1794, on a site just north of the church. It commands a pleasant view, and is a commodious and substantial residence.

The following families had also interests in Brampton, as appears from an old roll of knights' fees, in the possession of W. S. Fitch, Esq., of Ipswich.

"Her. Edī del Clyff, Robtī Page, Barthī Olton, Edī et Nichī fratrum ipius Barthī, Rici Farwell, Rici Draweswerd, Willī Payn, Isabell, que fuit ux Nichī de Depeden, Johīs Dusk, Alienor, que fuit ux Johīs Dusk, et Johīs Payn, ten. iiij pt f. milit. in Brampton, de Johe fil. Waltir. ij[℥]. his¹² q̄r dividit. in plībus ptibus sepati, et null. eor. ten. iiij pt.

℥ ij. p. Inq̄sic.

Robto Mekylfeld ten. in Brampton iiij pt. et di. f. mil. qd Edmo. del Clyff nup. tenuit de Roge. le Soterle. Robto Duk ten. in Brampton al. dēt qrt de dco feod. qd Walter de Hales nup. tenuit de Gilbto Colvyll. ℥ ij hic q̄r. ult^o. quantit. uni^s quater. ℥ ij. p. qū. cont. form. concess."

In the Testa de Nevil, a record as ancient as the reign of Henry III., "Willius de Brampton et pticippes sui" are said to hold one knight's fee in Brampton of the fee of Walter Fitz-Robert;¹³ and in the second of Edward III., Robert del Clief held one knight's fee in Brampton and Stoven of Robert Fitzwanter.¹⁴ Anthony Rous and his heirs also held lands in Brampton.

The ancient family of Duke, who bore for arms, azure, a chevron between three sterns close, argent, membered gules,—was seated in this parish from an early period, but were never possessed of the manor of Brampton. Their estate here was a subordinate lordship, called Hales Hall, held of the manor of Brampton, and which took its name from Walter Hales, who, in the seventeenth of Edward II., had license of free-warren here. In the eighth of James I., Ambrose Duke, Esq., died seized of this property, then held of John Leman, Esq., as of his manor of Brampton Hall.

Blomefield says, in his account of Aslacton, in the county of Norfolk, that Edward Duke, the first Baronet, married Catharine, daughter of Sir Thomas Holland, of Wortwell Hall, Knight; and in 1631, by the name of Edward Duke, of Benhall, Esq., sold

¹¹ Cole's Esch. vol. v. p. 107.

¹² Sic scriptum.

¹³ Testa de Nevil, p. 290, b.

¹⁴ Harl. MSS. 5193.

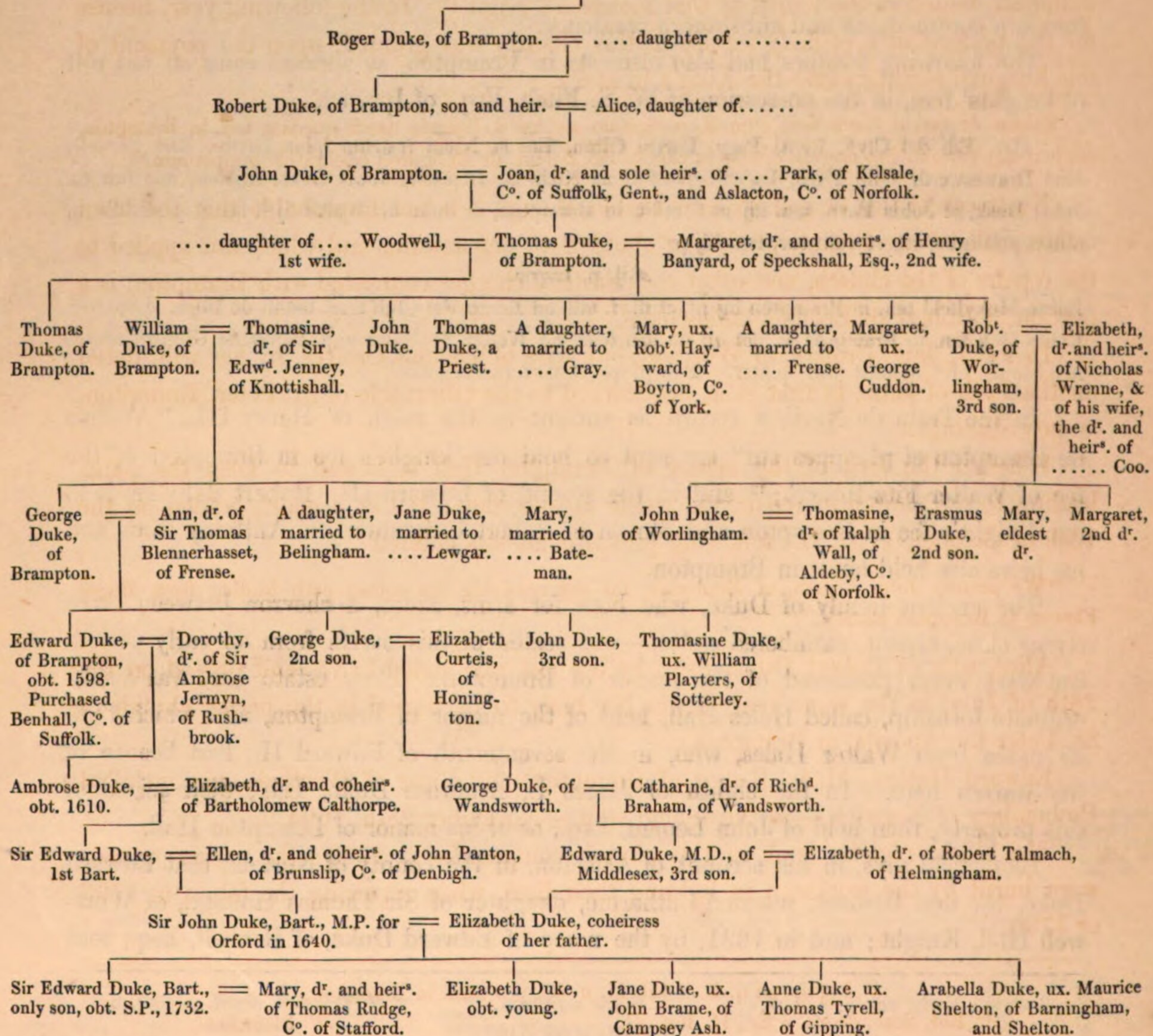
the manor to Sir William Playters, of Billingford, &c., in trust for Sir William Le Neve, Knight. He probably was twice married, as Wotton informs us he had twenty-nine children; none of whom survived, except Sir John Duke, his successor.

Duke, of Brampton.

Roger Duke, living temp. Ric. I.

Peter Duke, Shrive of London, anno 1208.

Roger Duke, Shrive of London, an. 1225 and 1226, Mayor four years in succession, viz.: 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230.
Walter Duke, Gent., of Brampton,—probably his grandson, temp. Ed. III.,—married, and had issue.



THE CHURCH

of Brampton is a rectory, dedicated to St. Peter, comprising a nave and chancel, with a square tower at the west end of the former, containing five bells. The nave was once covered with a fine oak roof, of which traces remain; and the whole edifice is in the neatest and most reputable condition. The oldest architectural features are in the style fashionable in our third Henry's reign, though very many of a later date have been engrafted upon the original fabric. In the reign of Edward II., a chapel, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, was appended to this church, and well endowed by Robert Seafeld, then lord of the manor, as appears by an *inquisitio ad quod damnum*, issued in the fourth of that monarch's reign.¹⁵ In the following year, license for the performance of daily service in this chantry was granted, upon the payment of one hundred shillings into the King's treasury.

*Robtus de Sefeld finem fecit cum R. p. centum solidos p. licencia dandi quedam ten. in Brampton, cuidam capellano divina singulis diebus in capellâ Scî Barthi. de Brampton celebratur. imppetuum.*¹⁶

No traces of this chapel are now visible, though it is not improbable that the town estate, called "the Fenn," producing about £40 per annum, and which are applied to the repairs of the church, and other ecclesiastical charges connected with Brampton, is a portion of Robert de Sefeld's endowment.

In 1477, Jane Croftys, of Westhall, late wife of Thomas Croftys, by her will, dated on the 12th of June, in that year, bequeathed to the tabernacle of St. Peter, Brampton, twenty shillings.

Whether the lord of the manor of Brampton Hall is bound to keep the paths leading to the church in repair, the writer is uncertain; but at a court, holden on the 13th of October, 1701, the following presentment was entered:

"We present John Leman, of Brampton, for not repairing the comen path leading from Roger Flowers to Brampton church."

Alice, wife of Robert Duke, Esq., by her last will, dated 1437, and proved on the 28th of July, in the same year, leaves her body to be buried in the parish church of St. Peter the Apostle, at Brampton.

Edward Hatton, M.A., Rector of Brampton, and Vicar of Westhall, was installed Prebendary of Norwich,—in the second stall,—November 28th, 1604.¹⁷

The oldest register book in this church commences in 1760; the earlier records were burnt by the workmen in lighting their fires, when repairing the fabric in 1795 or 1796.

¹⁵ *Inquis. ad q. D. 4 Ed. II. n. 69, pro cant. in Brampton.*

¹⁶ *Rot. Scac. de an. 5 Ed. II. Rot. 21.*

¹⁷ *Blomefield.*

Monuments.—N. T. O. Leman, Clerk, forty-three years Rector, died 31st January, 1837, aged 77. He was fifty-three years married. One of his fifteen children was a captain in the army, and was buried at Sierra Leone. H. J. O. Leman, his wife, daughter of the Rev. Sir William Anderson, Bart., died at Beccles, 9th March, 1843, aged 82. As a wife, a mother, and a friend, she will be long affectionately remembered. Arms: Leman quartering Orgill; arg. a fess between 3 fleurs-de-lis, jettant gules; impales Anderson. Robert Leman, Esq., died 22nd April, 1788, æt. 84. Mary, his wife, daughter of Nunn Pretymen, Esq., died 5th August, 1762, æt. 58. They had issue, Mary, Thomas, and Robert. Thomas married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Mr. King, and died in 1757, without issue. Robert died in 1779, unmarried. Arms: Leman impales Pretymen; gules, a lion passant in fess between 3 mullets, or. Mary Leman died unmarried, 7th February, 1807, æt. 82. John Talbot, Clerk, died 12th October, 1728, æt. 75. John Talbot, late of this parish, Gent., died 14th September, 1716, aged 70. Thomas Leman, Gent., died 12th October, 1717, æt. 51. Eleanor, daughter of Robert Cuddon, Gent., of Shaddingfield Hall, and wife of Thomas Leman, died 23rd March, 1725, æt. 47. Robert Leman, son of Robert and Mary Leman, died an infant, 1731. John Leman, and Ann, his wife, daughter of Thomas Weld, died—he upon the 8th, and she upon the 7th day of December, 1670, both in the 37th year of their age. Alice, daughter of John Leman, died 23rd February, 168 . . , aged 20. Thomas Leman, Gent., patron of this church, and one of the heirs of Sir John Leman, sometime Lord Mayor of London, died 11th November, 1640. Thomas, his son, died 8th July, 1643. Susanna Orgill, relict of William Orgill, daughter of William Leman, died 8th February, 1788, aged 52. Sarah, only daughter of Thomas Leman, died 24th February, 1749, aged 44. Naunton Leman, died 28th December, 1738. Catharine, daughter of William and Sarah Leman, died 4 Kal. July, 1735, aged 4 years and 3 months. William Leman, died an infant, 15th December, 1728. A very large floor-stone, nearly ten feet long, lies in the nave, from which a small brass effigy has been reaved. Against the exterior of the south wall of the chancel is a tablet to the memory of Mary, relict of Francis Repps, Esq., of Mattishall, in Norfolk, and eldest daughter of John Leman, of Brampton; she died 23rd April, 1727, aged 73.

RECTORS OF BRAMPTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Augustus, fil. Aug. de la Cliff, de Donewico	1323	Robert de Faleyse.
Robert Burchard, de Wynaston . . .	1349	William de Ergham.
Adam Payn	1361	Lionel de Bradenham, and Robert Ashfield.
William Bernham	1405	William Philip, and Robert Garneys.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Pethaw	1411	Augustine de Cliff.
Robert Alverych	1435	William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk.
Thomas Payn	1469	The Bishop, by lapse.
Robert Godfrey	1504	Roger Townshend.
Walter Shiggs	1506	Id.
Nicholas Lincoln	1533	Id.
Lionel Chowse	1577	Id.
Edward Hatton	1592	The Bishop of London, and Samuel Aylmer, Gent.
William Flowerdew	1601	Assig. ejusdem Samuelis.
William Cocheram	1606	John Leman.
Thomas Batho		
Ranulphus Tench	1662	John Leman, of Hainford, Esq.
John Talbot	1681	Thomas Leman, Gent.
Samuel Bull	1728	Robert Leman, Esq.
Nunn Prettyman	1742	Id.
Naunton Thomas Orgill Leman	1793	Mary Leman, Spinster.
Thomas Orgill Leman	1837	Henrietta Jane Orgill Leman, widow, and others.

Robertus de Falesia, de Donewico, est patronus illius, Rector habet mansum cum xvi acris terre. Estimatio ejusdem, præter portionem xxx marc. Portio Prioris Monachor. Thetfordie in eadem xx^s. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Denarij S. Petri xv^d. ob. Norwich Domesday.

The tithes of Brampton have been commuted at £434. The gross amount of land is 2002 acres, 1 rood, 5 perches, of which 12 acres and 22 perches are glebe. The population in 1841 amounted to 322.

Charities in this parish are—a house divided into four tenements, and let to poor persons at £4 a year; and three acres of land, or thereabouts, producing £10 a year, which are distributed among poor persons belonging to the town. Also twelve acres of meadow, called the “Town Fenn,” the present rent of which is about £40, which is applied to the repairs of the church, and in defraying all other charges of the churchwarden’s office. Mary Leman, in 1805, bequeathed by will £600, clear of all deductions, upon trust, to invest the same in the purchase of 3 per cent. consols; the dividends to be applied for establishing and supporting a Sunday school in each of the parishes of Brampton, Redisham, and Cratfield; for instructing poor children belonging to or residing within those parishes, to read; an equal share to be appropriated to each of the three schools.

BULCHAMP.

Bulchamp is a hamlet of Blythborough, lying on the north of that parish, from which it is separated by the river Blythe. It is said to have derived its name from the Saxon Bald Kemp, which signifies bold fighting—hand to hand,—and to have acquired this appellation from a fierce encounter between the Mercians under their Pagan chieftain Penda, and the Christian Saxons of East Anglia, headed by King Anna, and his son, Ferminus.¹ The issue of this contest, which was maintained with the most resolute courage on either side, terminated in the death of Anna and his son, who were slain, and fell, according to a tradition yet current in the place, in Bulchamp Wood or Forest, A.D. 654.

**Penda anone his hoste with hym he led,
And on Anna came fyrste with mykle pryde,
Kinge of East-Englond, whos dowter Egfred wed,
And slew hym.**

The bodies of King Anna, and his son, were interred in the older, or Saxon, church at Blythborough, whence they were translated to Bury Abbey, previously to the Norman Conquest.² It is rather remarkable that the piety of our remote ancestors, who attached a degree of sanctity to places marked by the violent deaths of the illustrious, should not have erected a church on the spot where King Anna fell, in commemoration of his patriotism and Christian virtues.

At the Norman Survey, "Bulecampe" was returned as two manors. The most valuable of these had been the property of Ala, a free-man, who was under the protection of Mannius, the predecessor of Robert de Toden, and in the Confessor's days comprised 90 acres of land, with two villeins and three bordars. One plough was kept on the demesne land, and one by the tenants. There were three acres of meadow, wood for 100 swine; 12 swine, as many sheep, and 40 goats. This estate, which was one leuca in length, and half a one in width, was valued at fifteen shillings, and paid one penny farthing land-tax. It had been granted by the Conqueror to Ralph Guader, Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk, but on his banishment was bestowed upon Roger Bigot, who possessed it, when the Survey was made, as a gift of the King, and Robert de Vallibus held it under him.³

The second estate here was of less considerable value, but returned as a manor, among the possessions of Godric Dapifer.⁴ Thored, a free Saxon, had been dis-

¹ Speed, Stow, Weever, Gardner, &c.

² Camden, &c.

³ Domesday, 333.

⁴ Idem, 356.

possessed of it by the Normans: it contained only 30 acres of land, on which were two villeins. There was one plough, one acre of meadow, wood for 11 swine, and its valuation was five shillings.

In the fifty-first of Henry III., Thomas de Cravene had a grant of free-warren in the manor of Bulchamp,⁵ though the descendants of Robert de Vallibus still retained interests here; for in 1288, Walter de Kerdeston held two fees, one in Aslacton in Norfolk, and the other in Bulchamp, which were assigned to William de Roos, of Hamlake, and Maud his wife, on the partition therein made of the estate of her father, John de Vallibus, or Vaux, of Holt and Clay, in Norfolk.⁶

In the thirty-fifth of Edward III., Sir William de Kerdeston died seized of this lordship: he left a son, William de Kerdeston, aged 36, by Maud, his first wife. Upon an inquisition being made for Sir William's right heir, John, son of John de Burghersh, and Maud his wife, daughter and coheiress of Sir William, by Margaret, his *second* wife, daughter of Sir Edmund Bacon, was found to be such, and he had accordingly livery of his grandfather's estates. Great law-suits ensued on this inquisition, which went to prove William de Kerdeston to be illegitimate, as being born ante sponsalia; and some accounts made him to be the son of Alice Norwich, his father's concubine. Upon a trial at law, the jury confirmed these allegations, when the Crown seized the manors and estates of William de Kerdeston, who, however, so stoutly controverted these decisions, that after some years he succeeded in proving his legitimacy in the King's Bench, and recovered his father's estates.⁷ In the forty-ninth of Edward III., and in the fifth of Richard II., this William de Kerdeston, now a Knight, was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk; obtained a grant of free-warren in his manors in Suffolk, inter alia, and being wealthy, lent the King considerable sums of money.⁸

In the twentieth of Henry VI., Thomas de Kerdeston, Knt., released to William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, and Alice his wife, all his right in the manors of Bulchamp and Henham, &c.⁹ In the Escheat Rolls of the twenty-ninth of the same reign, the jury found that Sir Thomas died, *not* seized of these lordships, but that William de la Pole, late Duke of Suffolk, and Alice his wife, as her right, entered on and took the profits during the life of Sir Thomas, and that Alice, late wife of the said Duke, and Sir John Howard, were his next heirs. This Alice was grand-daughter of Geoffrey Chaucer, the poet. In the fifteenth of Edward IV., she died seized of these lordships, and by deed, dated November 20, in the following year, Sir Edward Hungerford released them to John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth his wife, sister

⁵ Cart. 51 Hen. III. p. u. m. 7.

⁸ Idem.

⁶ Blomefield.

⁷ Blomefield, Mag. Brit., &c.

⁹ Harl. MSS. 971.

to Edward IV. The manor of Bulchamp appears subsequently to have followed in the same conveyances as that of Henham, to its present possessor, the Earl of Stradbroke. The name of it is retained in the descriptions of the estates of that nobleman, though it is now considered as a nominal, or reputed, manor only. In 1607, Sir J. Rous, Bart., made a grant of lands in Bulchamp, reserving a rent to Henham manor.

The monks of Sibton, Thetford, and Blythborough had estates here. By a deed, sans date, Andrew, son of Richard de Sybeton, granted lands in Bulecamp to Sibton Abbey.¹⁰ Robert de Vallibus gave the tithes of Bulchamp to the priory or abbey of Thetford; and Hubert de Munchensy bestowed two parts of his tithes here on the same establishment.¹¹

The Prior of Blythborough had a tenement in Bulchamp, held of the fee of Robert Fitz-Roger, and another in Brigge.

*Itm. Prior de Bliburg ten. unū. ten. in Bolechamp de feod. milit. de feod. Robti fil. Rog. et aliud tenemet i. Brigge de feod. milit. adquis. de longo tēpore de feod. Com. Mariscall.*¹²

The tithes of Bulchamp were probably granted, with those of Blythborough, to Sir Arthur Hopton, in the reign of Henry VIII., although I have never seen a copy of the conveyance. They were early in the possession of the Blois family. Sir Charles Blois, Bart., by his will, dated 13th August, 1734, gave the tithes arising in that part of the parish of Blythborough cum Walberswick, which is distinguished by the name of Bulchamp Hamlet, to Charles Blois, his grandson,—afterwards Sir Charles Blois, Bart.,—or to such other person or persons as shall from time to time possess and enjoy Cockfield Hall. By virtue of which devise, Jane Blois, of Yoxford, widow, daughter-in-law of the said Sir Charles, and mother of the said Charles Blois, became entitled to those tithes, till her son came of age. She permitted Ralph Blois, of Yoxford, Clerk, to receive the said tithes upon an engagement to deliver them when required.¹³ About twelve years since, the tithes of Bulchamp were conveyed to the Earl of Stradbroke, by Sir Charles Blois, in exchange for tithes in Yoxford.

The poor of this hamlet participate in the bequest of Matthew Walter, of Blythford.¹⁴

The House of Industry for the Blything union was erected here about the year 1765.

¹⁰ Blomefield.

¹¹ Idem.

¹² Rotuli Hundredorum.

¹³ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

¹⁴ Vide Blythford.

Buxlow.

BUXLOW was formerly a distinct parish, but was consolidated with Knoddishall on the 22nd of February, 1721. The ancient family of Jenney, a notice of which will be introduced under the latter village, held the manor and advowson from the year 1435; previous to which period they passed by short tenures through various hands, as will be seen by a reference to the list of incumbents. In the thirtieth of Edward I., there was an exchange made between Richard Page, of this parish, and Henry, son of Hamon de Bittering, lord of the manor of Bittering, in Norfolk; whereby Page grants to De Bittering all his tenement, with the rents, wards, reliefs, escheats, &c., in Buxlow, with the advowson of that church, and in Sternfield, in Suffolk; Henry granting to Page all his tenement in Bittering, with the appurtenances, and ten marks in his pocket. This deed was dated at Buxlow, on the day of the feast of Pentecost.¹

In the twenty-eighth of Edward I., Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Cornwall, held a knight's fee in Buxlow and Knoddishall.² The jury impannelled by the Hundred Rolls Commissioners recorded several acts of aggression committed here. They reported that Ralf de Grenham, then bailiff of the Earl of Cornwall, and John de Corndebot, assumed to themselves the right of fixing the assize of bread and ale in Buxlow, which privilege belonged to the manor of Leiston, as it was royal demesne; and that Theobald de Leiston did the same, without any warrant. Moreover, that the bailiffs of Eye held an unauthorized court—"novum turnum"—at Buxlow, and elsewhere, at their own pleasure, which the King's steward was accustomed to hold; and that such procedure was to the great injury and inconvenience of the whole country.³ The Abbot of Leyston held thirty acres of land in Buxlow of the fee of the Earl Marshal.⁴

In the attic-room of the chapter-house is a grant and confirmation from the Dean and Canons of Cardinal College, Oxford, made to William Capon, Dean of Wolsey's College at Ipswich, of the manors, inter alia, of Buckeslaw and Peasenhall.⁵

In the seventeenth of Henry VIII., Cardinal Wolsey held lands here, late parcel of the possessions of the dissolved monastery of Dodnash.

In the twenty-eighth of Henry VIII., Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, held the

¹ Blomefield.

² MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

³ Rotuli Hundredorum.

⁴ Idem.

⁵ A. 12. C. Jermyn MSS.

lands, late belonging to the Abbot of Leiston, of the King, in capite, by the service of the tenth part of a knight's fee, and £13. 8s. 10d. rent.⁶ The Honour of Eye extended into this village; for in a list of knights' fees of Suffolk,⁷ it is recorded that Robert Braham, of Buxlow, held, in that parish, half a knight's fee of the Earl of Suffolk, which Roger de Barsham, John de Barsham, and Edward Kerrych, lately held of the Honour of Eye.

Buxlow is now the property of Sir Robert Harland, Bart., in right of his wife, who was the sister and heiress of the late John Vernon, Esq.

THE CHURCH,

which is ruined, was dedicated to St. Peter. John Hacoun, Rector, by his last will, dated at Frestone, on the Monday after the feast of the Assumption of the blessed Virgin, anno domini 1396, and proved in October, in the same year, leaves his body to be buried within the chancel of St. Peter's church at Buxlow.⁸

RECTORS OF BUXLOW.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Johes de Melford	1301	The King, Henry Portman, Galiena his wife, Matilda Cordebof.
Laurence de Baldock	1315	William of Roydon, Henry Portman, &c.
Rich, fil. Alan de Wittoc	1328	William of Roydon.
Henry de Boghton	1332	John of Braham.
Adam, son of John de Braham	1334	William Tastard, &c.
Robert Mone, de Knodishall	1375	John Braham, &c.
John Steer	1378	William Bohkle, &c.
John Hacoun	1393	John of Braham.
John Smithman	1396	John de Bohkle.
John Shirborn	1435	John Jenney, and Robert Braham, jure man. de Buxlow.
Robert Smith	1452	Robert Brame.
Robert Smith	1454	William Jenney, Gent.
John Hardyng	1462	William Jenney and John Brame.
John Fitz-John	1471	Id.
Nicholas Cholry	1484	The Bishop, by lapse.
William Townshend	1489	Id.
Laurence Mayhew		

⁶ Jermyn MSS.

⁷ Pen. W. S. Fitch, Arm.

⁸ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John Antilby . . .	1541	Fr. Jenney, Esq.
William Eland . . .	1546	Id.
William Lark . . .		
John Denny . . .	1555	The Bishop, by lapse.
Henry Jackson . . .		Francis Jenney, Esq.
Edward Hearne . . .	1562	The King.
John Olyver . . .	1566	Francis Jenney, Esq.
Robert Amye . . .	1594	Arthur Jenney, Esq.
Edward Oliver . . .	1611	The King, by reason of the minority of Arthur Jenney, Esq.
George Jermy . . .	1622	Ann Jenney, widow.
Thomas Joye . . .	1680	Robert Jenney, with consent of Ed. Jenney, his guardian.
Robert Witchingham . . .	1716	Robert Jenney, Esq.

Estimatio illius vi marc. Portio Prioris de Eye in eadem ii^s. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Mich^s. vi^d. et pro termino Paschæ vi^d. Denarij S. Petri non habentur. Norwich Domesday.

Chediston.

CIDESTAN,—the Domesday spelling of this town,—pronounced with the Saxon aspirate—gives us, with the slightest variation, the modern Chediston. The village having belonged, for the most part, to the Queen of Edward the Confessor, appears to have possessed a greater degree of importance in those early times, than it now enjoys.

At the Survey, the entire parish was held by three Norman proprietors: Roger Bigod; Alan, Earl of Richmond and Bretagne; and Gislebert, Balastarius, or the master of the cross-bowmen. The estate of the former was by far the most extensive, and comprised several small manors. The names of the sub-tenants, and the nature of their tenure, are detailed at considerable length, but appear too interesting to curtail.

TERRE ROGERI BIGOT.—In Cidestane, Godwin, a free-man of the Queen, held fifty-five acres, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, for a manor: now (at the Survey), Robert de Vallibus holds the same. There were always two villeins and two bordars on this property, one plough employed on the demesne lands, and one by the tenants. There was one acre and a half of meadow, wood for thirty swine, two cows, twelve swine, and twenty sheep. This estate was valued at 10 shillings.

In Cidestan, Ulsi, a free-man, had thirteen acres, of whom the predecessor of

Robert Malet had half the protection; and the Queen of the Confessor had the other half. In the same village, a free-man, by name Anant, and another free-man, Ulf, each held thirteen acres under the Queen's protection. Their estate was returned at 4 shillings only. The King and the Earl here divided the soc. Edric, a free-man, of whom the predecessor of Robert Malet had half the protection, and the Abbot of Ely the other portion, in the Confessor's days, held 100 acres for a manor. In this lordship were always two villeins, and five bordars; one plough on the demesne lands: before the Conquest, the tenants had kept two ploughs, but at the Survey they employed only one. Here were three acres of meadow land, wood sufficient to maintain sixty swine, one cow, four pigs, twenty-two sheep, and seven goats. Five parts of the church were appended to this estate, with sixteen acres of glebe: its value was always 30 shillings; and William Malet was seized of it, when he went upon the King's service, where he died. Two free-men, Ledman and Stauhart, who were under the protection of the King and the Queen, also held thirty acres for a manor in this village: they had one bordar. Then there was here one plough, with wood for twenty swine, and one acre of meadow; valued at 5 shillings. Leuric, a free Saxon, held twenty-six acres for a manor, of whom the predecessor of Baignard had the protection: here were always one villein, and two bordars; one plough, three acres of meadow, wood for twelve swine, two cows, four swine, and twenty sheep; valued at 10 shillings. Couta, a free-man, held fifteen acres under the protection of the predecessor of Robert Malet: this estate was valued at 2 shillings, and William Malet was seized of it. A free-man, by name Leuin, held fourteen acres here, of whom the predecessor of Robert Malet had also the protection. William his (Malet's) father was also seized of this property; valued at 2 shillings and 4 pence. The King and the Earl divided the soc of these estates. The entire village was one leuca in length, and five furlongs in width, and paid five-pence halfpenny gelt, or land-tax. It seems that these estates were consolidated into one manor by Roger Bigot, because the Survey returns them all as then held under this chieftain, by Robert de Vallibus, or Vaux.¹

The estate of Alan, Earl of Richmond, comprised eighty acres of land, &c., with the sac, and soc, and was parcel of his manor of Wisset.² Osketel and Godric held the farm belonging to Gislebert, Balastarius, which was valued at 4 shillings.³

The parish has subsequently been held as three manors, known as Wright's, Bavent's, and Hovel's. Of the latter, Sir Hugh Hovel was lord in 1287. He was the ancestor of Sir Richard Hovel, Esquire of the body to Henry V., and is now represented by the Right Hon. Lord Thurlow, of Ashfield. Sir Hugh was, evidently, a knight of great consequence in this county. In a list of knights, made in the

¹ Domesday, fol. 332.

² Idem, 293.

³ Id. 444, b.

reign of Edward II., his name stands first among the Suffolk families, and his arms are thus emblazoned :

*Sir Hige Hovel. de sable, et une crois de or.*⁴

His brother's name and arms, with a label of distinction, are also given. The family seem to have been rather contumacious subjects, at this period of almost universal anarchy ; for Robert Hovel is returned in the Hundred Rolls as prohibiting the proclamation of the King's command in this village.

*Dicunt qd Robtus Houvel non p̄misit mand. dñi Regis fieri in Chedistan.*⁵

A family, which took their name from this place, had possessions here about this period, as William de Chedestan held forty acres of land in Chediston of the King, in capite, by fealty, and 4 shillings rent.⁶

In 1263, Hubert de Bavent had a grant of free-warren in his manor of Chediston.⁷ In the first of Edward III., Edmund Merkeshall, Jeffrey Inglose, and Peter de Madingthorpe, were deforcients in a fine, and Thomas de Bavent, and Alice his wife, querents ; when a moiety of the lordship of Haynford, in Norfolk, &c., was settled on Thomas and Alice ; and the said Thomas, in the thirteenth year of the same reign, settled it, with the manors of Easton Bavent, and Chediston, on himself for life ; remainder to William his son, and Catharine his wife ; remainder to Felicia his daughter, sister of William, and the remainder to John, son of Thomas of Ulveston ; remainder to Richard, son of John, son of Baldwin Bavent : and in the twentieth of Edward III., William Bavent and Robert Pavilly were lords.⁸ In 1362, Thomas Bavent held this manor.⁹

The estate of Robert de Vallibus passed, upon the extinction of that line in the person of John de Vallibus, to the family of Neirford ; as William Neirford, and Parnell his wife, daughter and coheiress of the said John de Vallibus, held a portion of a knight's fee here.¹⁰

In the fourth of Edward I., Richard de Biland, or Byland, had a charter of free-warren, with license to hold a fair in his demesne lands here, and in Norfolk.¹¹

Of the three lordships above mentioned, Bavent's alone retains any copyhold tenants : Wright's has but two or three free tenants, and Hovel's is now only a reputed manner, and is, in fact, never so designated at the present day. Bavent's and Wright's were included in the purchase of the Chediston Hall estate in 1722, by

⁴ Lansdowne MSS. 855.

⁵ Rot. Hund.

⁶ Idem.

⁷ Cart. 48 Hen. III. p. u. m. 1.

⁸ Blomefield.

⁹ Harl. MSS.

¹⁰ Idem.

¹¹ Blomefield.

Mr. Plumer, as will be presently shown; and the farm attached to the reputed lordship of Hovel's was bought by the late Mr. Parkyns, of the Ricketts, about six years ago.

About the middle of the seventeenth century, the family of Pettus held the manor of Chediston; for in 1666, Sir John Pettus is described as of Chediston Hall, and he must have been owner of considerable estates in the neighbourhood. The race sprung from Thomas Pettus, an eminent and wealthy citizen of Norwich, who lies buried in St. Edmund's church in Lombard Street, London. John Pettus, of the city of Norwich, Gent., was his son and heir, who married the widow of Simon Dethick, Esq., whose maiden name was Crow. Thomas, his son and heir, married Christian, the daughter of Simon Dethick, Esq., and by her had issue four sons, John, Thomas, Alexander, and William; and three daughters, Anne, Cicely, and Elizabeth. This Thomas Pettus was Mayor of Norwich in the year 1591, and died in 1597, in the seventy-eighth year of his age, as appears by his monument in the church of Saint Simon and Jude, at Norwich. John Pettus, his eldest son, received the honour of knighthood, and married Bridget, daughter and coheir of Augustin Curteis, of Honington, in Suffolk, by whom he had issue Augustin and Thomas; and Anne, Christian, and Bridget. His grandson, Thomas Pettus, was created a Baronet for his zeal and loyalty to his Prince, during the Great Rebellion.¹² Sir John Pettus, already mentioned as of Chediston, was an eminent loyalist, and compounded for a large sum with the Parliamentarians for his estates.

Between 1666 and 1688, Chediston Hall, &c., appears to have been purchased by George Fleetwood, as he was owner thereof at the latter date, and is described as of Chediston. In 1701, Gustavus Fleetwood was the possessor, and the property was sold by his executors, in 1722, to Walter Plumer, of Gray's Inn, Esq. The family of Pettus retained property in this parish, after the sale to the Fleetwoods, as a small farm was purchased by Mr. Walter Plumer, in 1750, of Sir Horatio Pettus, of Rackey, otherwise Rackheath, eldest son of Sir Horatio Pettus, of the same place. Walter Plumer, Esq., died without issue, and his property devolved upon William Plumer, his brother, and from him descended to William, his son, who died in 1822, and left the estates to his wife, Mrs. Plumer, afterwards married to Captain Lewin, whom, also, she survived; and married, thirdly, Robert Ward, the author of 'Tremaine,' &c., who assumed the name of Plumer. Mrs. Plumer Ward left these estates to her husband, who sold the Suffolk property, in 1833. George Parkyns, Esq., became the purchaser of Chediston Hall, with divers manors, and adjacent farms. Upon the customary investigation of Mr. Plumer Ward's title, consequent upon this sale, it was discovered that he had mortgaged the estate to a chartered company, empowered to hold lands to

¹² Wotton's English Baronets.

a certain extent only,—that they had exceeded that extent, and that the Suffolk estate had consequently become forfeited to the Crown. It was, however, immediately re-granted to Mr. Plumer Ward, and conveyed to Mr. Parkyns, and the circumstance of the forfeiture would be hardly worth recording, but for the singular fact, that within a few months after this grant, the estate again became forfeited to the Crown; though the second forfeiture did not transpire until the death of Mr. Parkyns in 1844.

In order to explain the cause of the second escheat, it is necessary to give a short account of Mr. Parkyns's family. That gentleman's father, who was a son of the second Baronet of that name, married, when very young, a Miss Levett, of Bunny, in the county of Nottingham, by whom he had several children. After some years, differences arose between these parties, and, in 1772, proceedings were instituted in the ecclesiastical court to procure a sentence of divorce; which was subsequently obtained "*a mensâ et toro*." This exemption of divorce places the parties who obtain it in this position,—that though legally separated, neither is capable of contracting a second marriage, during the lifetime of the other. Notwithstanding this incapacity, Mr. Parkyns, who was then living in France, married a Mdlle. Toussay, by whom he had one son, the late Mr. Parkyns of Chediston Hall, and several daughters, one of whom, Marie Claire Parkyns, married a Monsieur de la Croix, and still survives. These children were, consequently, illegitimate, and, being born out of Great Britain, were aliens, and incapable, by the laws of this kingdom, of holding lands in England; so that the conveyance of the Chediston Hall estate to Mr. Parkyns was altogether illegal, and operated as a forfeiture of the property to the Crown. These circumstances transpired upon Mr. Parkyns's decease, and the property, in 1845, was seized into the hands of her Majesty. Mr. Parkyns's only child having died an infant during his lifetime, a re-grant of the estate was made in favour of his widow, and his natural sister, Madame de la Croix; Chediston Hall being reserved to the former. Mrs. Parkyns has since married Thomas Rant, Esq., of a family long seated at Mendham, and they are the present residents and proprietors of Chediston Hall.

The family of Plumer,—which bore for arms, *per chev. flory counter-flory arg. and gules, three martlets counterchanged*,—is now, I believe, extinct in the male line; but the present Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Whately, and his brother, are descendants by a female branch; their father having married Jane, a sister of the last William Plumer, and the only one of the family who had issue.

Chediston Hall stands on an eminence facing the south, and is an ancient house, but now sadly denuded of timber. According to a map of the estate, made in 1722, when Mr. Plumer was its owner, the projecting wings of the mansion extended further from the body of the building, and the area in front was shut in by a high wall, having large iron gates opposite to the hall door.

THE CHURCH.

Robert de Vallibus, who was enfeoffed of the principal lordship here by Roger Bigot, gave certain tithes of this parish, inter alia, to the monks of the Abbey at Thetford.¹³ The rectory of Chediston, however, was granted to the Priory of Pentney, in Norfolk, of which he was the founder, and the Prior of that house presented until the Dissolution. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Haman Claxton, Esq., was the patron, and presented in 1566. This gentleman was descended from a branch of the ancient family which derived their name from Claxton in Norfolk, where they had interests as early as the twentieth of Henry III.¹⁴ The Blomfields afterwards held the patronage, and presented in 1717. On the 5th of October, 1743, the vicarage was consolidated with Halesworth, with which it has since passed; Mrs. Elizabeth Badeley, widow, presenting in 1839. The fabric, which is dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave and small chancel, both covered with lead, and a good square tower of flint-work, without buttresses, which contains three bells. One of these was made in 1572 at Bury St. Edmund's,—the second by Thomas Gardiner, in 1718, and the third, which is of much older date, bears this legend:

Filius Virginis Marie dat nobis gaudia vite.

An ugly appendage of brick, about sixteen feet long by fourteen in width, is attached to the north side of the nave, and is said to have been built by the Fleetwoods as a burial-place for their family.¹⁵ It is now raised a few steps above the floor of the church, and filled with pews. A hatchment with the Fleetwood arms was lately hanging against the walls. A good octangular font, sculptured with the emblems of the Trinity, our Lord's Passion, &c., has been removed to a corner of the nave, near the north door, and exhibits a thick incrustation of lime-wash,—the result of repeated "beautifications." The tracery in the east window of the chancel has been cut off, apparently at no very distant period, under the late system of church reparation; but its lower portion contains the shield of Baxter, arg. on a pale sab. 3 bezants, within a bordure of the second, quartering Bludworth, chequy, sab. and or, on a bend of the second 3 eagles displayed of the first. Motto, "Scite et cito." In a very elegant little window in the south wall of the chancel, probably of Henry the Third's time, is a shield of arms bearing gules, a lion ramp. arg. Mowbray; attached to a second, but separate escutcheon, charged chequy, arg. and gules. In the west window on the north side of the nave was lately to be seen a rebus on the name of the Claxtons, whose interests here have been previously noticed, viz., a tun surmounted by the

¹³ Blomefield.

¹⁴ Idem.

¹⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

letters **CLAF**, for Claxton. Their armorial bearings were gules, a fess arg. between 2 hedgehogs of the second; one in base, and one in the dexter quarter in chief; the sinister quarter barry of ten arg. and az. on a canton gules 3 martlets arg. About sixty years since, according to the information of the parish clerk, one Wyard was buried in the chancel, under the pews, on the north side.¹⁶ A few old benches remain in the nave, and a portion of the ancient screen. The latter has probably been destroyed since the days of Will. Dowsing, who mentions his operations here in very brief terms.

“Cheston, or Chediston, April the 5th.—2 superstitious inscriptions, and 7 popish pictures, one of Christ, and another of St. George.—6s. 8d.”

Monuments.—Some brasses were formerly placed on the floor of this church, which have now disappeared, leaving their matrices only to indicate the fact.

John Dawson, Vicar, and Elizabeth, his wife, were interred 4th September, 1684. Arms: Dawson, on a bend engrailed 3 birds, impales, a stag statant, on a canton an ancient galley.

The wife of William Ingham, of Halesworth, and eldest daughter of John Snell, Gent., died 25th of August, 1714, æt. 27. John Snell, died 5th September, 1679, æt. 79.

VICARS OF CHEDISTON.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas de Chotesham	1299	Prior and Convent of Pentney.
Henry Bakoun, de Leringsete	1306	Id.
William de Wylingham	1313	Id.
John le Neve	1337	Id.
Richard Pottere	1344	Id.
John de Chediston	1351	Id.
John de Corynham, de Hephham	1361	Id.
Thomas Warman	1396	Id.
John de Warwyk	1405	Id.
Walter Anabyll	1445	Id.
Thomas Cooke	1451	Id.
Thomas Shragger	1478	Id.
Clement Mason	1481	Id.
Thomas Grene		
Thomas Wright	1540	Radulphus Cautrell.
Regin. Lovelas	1566	Haman Claxton.
Thomas Sagar	1573	Id.
Thomas Carrell	1613	Felix Maplesden, p. h. v.

¹⁶ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
John Dawson		
Barnaby Blomfield	1684	Henry Blomfield, sen ^r .
John Catchpoole	1692	Henry Blomfield, Gent.
Barrington Blofield	1717	Id.

Prior de Pentneye habet eam in proprios usus. Vicarius habet mansum cū 2 acris terre. Estimatio Rectoriæ preter portionem xxv marc. Estimatio Vicariæ ejusdem vij marc. Portio Prioris de Rumburgh in eadem xij^s. iij^d. Procuratio vj^s. viij^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis vi^d; et pro termino Paschæ vi^d. Denarii S. Petri xij^d. Norwich Domesday.

	A.	R.	P.
Total land	2360	0	5
Roads	18	0	29
	2378	0	34

Glebe land included in the above, 61 acres, 15 perches.

	£.	s.	d.
Impropriator's rent-charge	230	0	0
Vicarial do.	13	14	6
	243	14	6

The corn rent-charge merged on 761 acres, 26 perches, the property of the trustees to the estate of the late George Parkyns, Esq., who are also owners of the impropriator's rent-charge.

19 acres, 2 roods, 8 perches, tithe free, the property of — Trimmer, Esq.

The date of the earliest register is 1653.

The population in 1841 was returned at 433 souls.

Charities.—Town lands: a farm in the parish of thirty acres, with a messuage and barn, left for the repairs of the church, and in discharge of such imposition as shall happen to be taxed upon the town. Two almshouses, divided into three tenements, with a piece of garden-ground to each, to be occupied by three poor persons of the parish. An annuity of twenty shillings, given by the Rev. Thomas Sagar, Vicar in 1612, payable out of three acres of land in Cookley, called Bowers, now belonging to Lord Huntingfield, due on St. Thomas's day. A gift left by Henry Smith, Esq., of London, out of an estate at Longney, in the county of Gloucester. The original allotment, in 1642, to this parish was £10; but at present it varies from £15 to £20, which amount is given away to poor persons of the place in meal, in quantities according to the size of their families. The farm of thirty acres, &c., has been vested in trustees since the time of Henry VII., and the almshouses were settled in trustees, by Henry Claxton, Esq., in 1575.

Cookley.

THIS parish derives its name from its situation on a little stream of water, or cockey, and is written Cokelei and Cokeli, in Domesday Book. At the Survey, William de Scoies held the manor, which, in the Confessor's time, had belonged to Wluric, a free Saxon. Its value seems to have undergone little depreciation by the Conquest. It always contained six carucates of land; and four ploughs were kept upon it, two of which were employed on the demesne lands. At the Survey there were six acres of meadow, wood for eighty swine, and a mill; two draught horses, one cow, eight swine, seven sheep, thirty goats, and two apiaries. To this manor belonged also an alternate presentation to the church, which was endowed with only one acre of glebe. Huard de Vernon and Robert de Vallibus were enfeoffed of this lordship. Huard's portion was valued at fifty shillings, and that of De Vallibus at eight. It was fourteen furlongs in length, and seven in breadth, and paid seven-pence halfpenny land-tax.¹

Robert de Vallibus also held a small estate here under Roger Bigot, valued at four shillings, which Godric had possessed in the Confessor's time. This Godric was under the joint protection of Wlsin and his two brothers. John de Vallibus retained the property of his ancestors here, and, in the forty-eighth of Henry III., obtained a grant, *inter alia*, of free-warren for these lands. There were subsequently two manors in this village, those of Cookley and Cookley Grange. Early in the reign of Edward I., the family of Fressingfield, or Frissenfeld, held the former,² and in the thirtieth year of the same king, John de Frissingfeld had license of free-warren, &c., in his lands at "Cukeley."³ This lordship, however, soon after passed to the Huntingfields; for in the twentieth of Edward III., William de Huntingfield held the manor of Huntingfield with the advowsons of the churches of that parish, and of Cookley, with remainder to William Ufford, Earl of Suffolk.⁴ In 1375, William, Lord Huntingfield, died seized of these advowsons, together with those of Petistree, and the Priory of Mendham.⁵ In 1381, William Ufford, in virtue of his remainder, presented to the rectory of Cookley, which right next devolved on the De la Poles; Michael De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, presenting in 1385. This nobleman being outlawed about three years afterwards, his property here was granted, in 1389,—probably in trust only,—to John Waltham, Bishop of Salisbury, and others, by Richard II.

¹ Domesday.² Mag. Brit.³ P. u. m. 37.⁴ Harl. MSS.⁵ Blomefield.

Rex concess. Epo Sarum, ac aliis, in feodo maner. de Huntingfield in Suff. unacum advocacionibus Prioratus de Mendham et ecclesia de Huntingefield, et Cokeley, in eodem com. nuper Michis de la Pole, &c., per servic. debit.⁶

On the restoration of Michael de la Pole to his father's title and estates, in 1397, Cookley appears to have been included in the re-grant, for Catharine, Countess of Suffolk, was patroness of this church in 1418. The De la Poles continued to hold it, with other possessions in the neighbourhood, till the final attainder of their family, in the person of Edmund de la Pole, the last of the race, in 1513. Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and his heirs, were the next owners of Cookley, which, in 1557, was held by the Lady Anne of Cleves, the divorced wife of Henry VIII., and formed parcel of her pension of £ 3000 per annum, which she received as the "adopted sister" of her brutal husband.

Queen Elizabeth, in the first year of her reign, granted the manor and advowson of Cookley to Sir Henry Carey, Baron Hunsdon, and his heirs male, to be held of the Crown in capite, &c. George, eldest son of Henry, Lord Hunsdon, succeeded his father in his title and estates. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Spencer, of Althorp, and left an only daughter and heiress, who, marrying Sir Thomas Berkeley, Knt., had issue Theophila Berkeley, who inherited Cookley, and other property in the adjoining villages. This lady married Sir Robert Coke, Knt., second son and heir of Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and thus conveyed her estates into that family. By Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester, Cookley was conveyed, inter alia, to Sir Joshua Vanneck, whose descendant, the present Lord Huntingfield, is lord and patron.

THE MANOR OF COOKLEY GRANGE

was held by the Abbots of Sibton from an early period, who erected a grange or farmhouse here. It is now attached to the Chediston Hall estate. The Abbot of Leiston also held two carucates of land in this village of the fee of the Earl Marshal.

Alicia, daughter of William de Boys, by deed, without date, conveyed to Sir Reginald Argentein, Knt., the homage and service of Simon de Reve, of Halesworth, arising from certain lands in Cookley, called le Hesthel.⁷

John and Elizabeth Smith, of this parish, were tried and convicted at the assizes holden at Bury St. Edmund's, March 21, 1812, for the wilful murder of Mary Smith, an infant, aged eight years, the daughter of the said John Smith, by a former wife, by means of a series of cruelty and starvation. They were both executed at Ipswich, on

⁶ Rot. Pat. secund. de an. 13 Reg. Rich. II. m. 30.

⁷ Jermyn MSS.

Monday, the 23rd of the same month. John Smith was thirty-nine, and his wife twenty-seven years of age, and had been married only four months. The trial was published by Gedge and Barker, of Bury, as was also 'A Sermon preached at the dying request of John Smith, by J. Dennant,' 8vo.

THE CHURCH

at Cookley is dedicated to St. Michael, and comprises a nave and chancel of good proportions, and is a small but ancient fabric. The windows of the nave are in the perpendicular style, not unmixed with examples of the nondescript or Guelphic architecture of the last century, but the decorated windows of the chancel, and the north door of the nave, which is circular, and wrought with the dog-tooth moulding, are evidences of the original date of this building. The nave is covered with a roof of oak, worthy of any interior, but this has been ceiled over in part, and the remainder smeared with lime-wash, in a truly barbarous style. Much very good carved wood-work in the seats is likewise disfigured by coats of paint, which clog the designs, and produce a poverty of effect. Taste in restoration might effect wonders here. There is an octangular font of stone raised on a cylindrical shaft, apparently of earlier date. The eight sides of the basin are charged with shields and emblems, indicative of the Trinity, the sword of St. Peter, a saltire, a cross floriated, &c. The square tower of flint contains three bells, thus inscribed :

1. Richardus Fowler me fecit, 1598.
2. Thomas Gardiner fecit, 1728.
3. W. B., anno Domini 1793.

Monuments.—On the floor of the nave lies a stone inlaid with two figures in brass, of a late date and common-place character. The inscription commemorating these worthies is as follows :

HERE LYETH BURIED THE BODY OF MARGERI BROWNE, LATE THE WIFE OF WILLIAM BROWNE, DECEASED, SHEE HAVING HAD ISSUE BY HIM IIIJ SONNES AND IIIJ DAUGHTERS, AND AFTER LIVED WIDDOW VIIJ YEARES, AND DYED THE XVIIJ DAY OF SEPTEMBER, AÑO 1594. AND THEBOVESAIÐ WILLIAM DYED BEFOR HER, THE XXIJ OF NOVEMBER, 1587, AND LIES BURIED IN THE CHURCH OF RENDHAM. RICHARDUS, FILIUS, FECIT, AÑO 1595.

Beneath this inscription are two groups, each consisting of four children; the sons in devotional attitudes at the feet of their father, and the daughters in a like position below their mother.

There is an old floor-stone in the chancel, on which was formerly a legend in brass.

The church at Cookley was visited on the 12th of September, 1760, by Thomas Martin. It then contained memorials of Thomas Gardner, who died 29th April, 1742, æt. 77. John Soane, who died 26th February, 1713. Mary, daughter of Thomas Pooley, of Cookley. John Colston, late of Walpole, Gent., who died 6th June, 1757, aged 29. John Chapman, of Walpole, who died 12th May, 1714, aged 60 years.⁸

The benefice is a rectory, and was consolidated with Huntingfield on the 22nd of June, 1733.

RECTORS OF COOKLEY.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert Gardiner	1349	The King, guardian of the heir of Roger de Huntingfield.
John Brown	1361	William of Huntingfield, Knt.
John White	1381	William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk.
John of Bolton	1385	Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, Lord of Huntingfield.
William Bolton	1418	Katherine, Countess of Suffolk.
Robert Shawle	1424	Robert Bolton, Clk.

⁸ From Martin's Church Notes, now in the possession of Sir Thomas Gery Cullum, Bart., of Hardwicke House, near Bury St. Edmund's. At the end of one of the volumes of these manuscripts is the following curious notice of the *courtship* and second marriage of this well-known antiquary. "He married for his first wife Copley, (misprinted Hopley, in the memoir appended to the printed History of Thetford,) widow, of Thetford, and had eight children by her, of whom two died early. She died in 1731, a few days after having given birth to twins. Mr. Martin soon after married the widow of Peter Le Neve, Norroy King at Arms, then living at Great Witchingham. The manner in which this union came about was somewhat singular, and therefore his children and friends were careful to record it, according to his own relation. Having heard it from the lips of my grandfather, Matthew Martin, the third son of this second issue, and also from Mrs. Amie Martin, who had received it from Mrs. Amie Burrough, of Bury St. Edmund's, I write it herein at the particular desire of Sir Thomas Gery Cullum. Mr. Thomas Martin was acting as executor to the late Peter Le Neve, when one morning, having been intently occupied in looking over the MSS. of the deceased Le Neve, he was summoned by the widow to dinner. He raised himself suddenly, and throwing himself back in his chair, stretched out his arms, and, as it were, yawned out 'O yes, O yes, O yes, who'll have me and my six children?'—'That will I, Mr. Martin, if I like those which I have not seen as well as those which I have seen,' was the instant reply; and they were married so shortly after, that Sir James Burrough, Master of Caius, had not had time to have his mourning completed for the lost wife, ere he heard of the approaching nuptials with the second.

"The fruit of this marriage was four children. 1. Samuel; 2. Peter; 3. Matthew; and 4. Elizabeth.

(Signed)

"WILLIAM JACKSON,

"Eldest son of Frances, first daughter of Matthew Martin.

"September 30, 1843."

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Alexander Gerard	1429	Walter de la Pole, Knt.
William Newton	1449	The Bishop, by lapse.
Robert Chatyslee	1461	Alicia, Duchess of Suffolk.
Richard Matlond	1464	John, Duke of Suffolk.
John Staves	1467	Alicia, Duchess of Suffolk.
John Pereson	1474	John, Duke of Suffolk.
John Launce	1479	Id.
John Cace, alias Cady, alias Carey .	1507	
Richard Burber	1532	Charles, Duke of Suffolk.
George Marshall	1554	Assig. of Charles, Duke of Suffolk.
Bernard Hall	1557	The Lady Anne of Cleves.
Robert Bateley	1559	Henry Cary, Baron Hunsdon.
Richard Bobbett	1563	Id.
Robert Bongley	1573	Id.
William Martin	1597	George, Lord Hunsdon.
Edmund Stubb		
Alexander Clerk	1644	Robert Coke, Knt.
Hurd Smith	1647	Id.
Jos. Jones	1670	John Coke, Esq.
Matthew Smallwood	1675	Robert Coke, Esq.
Peter Duckett	1676	Id.
Samuel Colby	1679	Id.
Nicholas Cremer	1709	Horace Walpole, Esq.
John Wells	1731	Charles Gibbs, Clk.

Rogerus, filius Dni Guil. de Huntynghfeld, est patronus ejusdem. Rector habet mansum pertinen. ecclie cum x acris terre. Estimatio illius x marc. Procuratio vi^s. viij^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis. vi^d. et pro Paschali termino, vi^d. Denarii S. Petri, xij^d. Norwich Domesday.

Charities.—The town estate consists of two houses, a home-stall, and about four acres of land, which are let at about £ 20 per annum; and the rent is applied to the repairs and *ornaments* of the church; the surplus being given to the poor in occasional relief. Thomas Neale, in 1701, gave by will, the yearly sum of £ 3, to be employed in teaching six children of the poorest parents in the parish, to read the Bible; and the further yearly sum of ten shillings, to buy Bibles, or other religious books. The yearly sum of £ 3. 10s. is paid out of an estate charged therewith, in this parish, belonging to Mr. Saunders.

The registers of this parish commence in 1538.

The parish contains 1557 acres, 3 roods.⁹

Population in 1841,—324.

⁹ From Dr. Wake's 'Southwold,' the author being unable to obtain any reply to his inquiries.

Cobe Hithe.—*See Northales.*

Cratfield.

CRATFIELD forms parcel of the liberty of the Duke of Norfolk granted to the ancestors of that nobleman by letters patent of Edward IV. In the Domesday Book it is called Cratafeld, which shows how little its name has varied in the lapse of eight hundred years. In the Confessor's time, Tored held three carucates and a half of land in this parish as a manor, but the entire village was in the possession of Ralph Bainard, when the Survey was compiled. There was then a church here, endowed with six acres of glebe. Five franklins,—*franci homines*,—are returned as tenanting lands worth 6 shillings and 8 pence. Two men held forty acres, with one plough, valued at 5 shillings, in this parish, but their services belonged to the manor of Blythborough. William Bainard held these two tenures of Ralph Bainard, his uncle. Another franklin held a manor here in the Confessor's reign, valued at 10 shillings, which Ralph Bainard retained in demesne at the increased appreciation of 20 shillings. The whole parish was eight furlongs in length, and five in width: it paid three-pence halfpenny land-tax, and was altogether an improving estate.¹

The exact rank and condition of these franklins are not very clearly understood, and seem to have varied considerably at different periods of our history. When Domesday Book was compiled by order of William the Conqueror, and wherein they are termed *franci*, and *francones homines*, they are entered as if attached to their respective manors with the villeins and *bordarii*; though they are expressly distinguished from the *liberi homines*, who amounted, at that period, in Suffolk, to 5344; whereas there were but 29 franklins, out of the total population of the county, which is enumerated at 20,491.²

In the reign of Edward III., the franklin was considered a personage of considerable importance. Chaucer describes him

“An householder, and that a grete was he.
His brede, his ale, was always after on;
A better envyned man was no wher non.

¹ Domesday, 415.

² Introduction to Domesday, by Sir Henry Ellis, who correctly judges from several expressions in the Survey, that this enumeration did not comprise the entire population of the county.

Withouten bake mete never was his hous,
 Of fish and flesh, and that so plenteous,
 It snewed in his hous of mete and drinke,
 Of alle deintees that men coud of thinke;
 After the sondre sesons of the yere
 So chaunged he his mete and his soupere.
 Ful many a fat partrich hadde he in mewe,
 And many a breme, and many a luce in stewe.
 His table dormaunt in his halle alway
 Stode redy covered alle the longe day.
 At sessions there was he lord and sire.
 Full often time he was knight of the shire.
 An anelace and a gipciere all of silk,
 Heng at his girdel, white as morwe milk.
 A shereve hadde he ben, and a contour.
 Was no wher swiche a worthy vavesour.”³

Sir John Fortescue, Lord Chief Justice to Henry VI., in his treatise ‘*De Laudibus Legum Angliæ*,’ defines a Frankleyne, “a substantial householder, a man of considerable estates,”⁴ and gives him the precedence above the yeoman, and other freeholders of estates sufficient to make a substantial jury. The franklin’s rank, however, had considerably retrograded in the sixteenth century, and in the reign of Elizabeth was considered on a par with the yeoman; beneath that of a gentleman, but above the condition of a vassal or villein.

Jeffery, the son and heir of Ralph Bainard, succeeded his father in the manor of Cratfield. By him it was transmitted to his son, William Bainard, who lost it by forfeiture to the Crown in the reign of Henry I. Soon after this period the lordship appears to have been broken into three parts; for in the year 1100, Matilda St. Liz granted to the Monks of St. Neot’s, in Huntingdonshire, “*totam tertiam partem totius manerij sui de Cratesfeld, quod est liberum maritagium meum*,” &c. This third part, probably, continued in the monastery till the Dissolution; but how it became merged in the other manor, or manors, is not ascertained; for no mention seems to have been made of it, after the original grant. The other portions formed separate lordships under the titles of “the manor of Cratfield,” and “the manor of Cratfield le Roos.”

THE MANOR OF CRATFIELD

was held by William de Albini, after its forfeiture by the Bainards, whose successors retained it for several generations, till it passed by exchange to Roger Bigod, Earl

³ Chaucer’s Prologues.

⁴ Cap. XXIX.

of Norfolk, about the year 1240.⁵ In 1289, Roger Bigod, upon his marriage, settled the manor of Cratfield on his second wife, Alice, daughter of the Earl of Hainault, who survived him, and held all her husband's castles, manors, and lands, during her life. On her death, the lordship of Cratfield reverted to Robert de Tattershall, in right of Amabill, or Mabel, his wife, the sister and coheiress of Hugh de Albini, who died in 1243. Robert de Tattershall, their grandson, was lord of Cratfield in 1300; and dying in 1306, a minor, Eva, his mother, retained Cratfield for her life, though his father's sisters were found to be his heirs. This Eva de Tattershall, who was daughter of Robert de Tibetot, soon after re-married to Sir John de Cove,⁶ who in her right was lord of Cratfield, in the reign of Edward II. She died in the twenty-fourth of Edward III., in which year it was returned, that she held at the day of her death, in dower, the manors of Topcroft and Denton, with the Hundred of Shropham, in Norfolk, and the manor of Cratfield, in Suffolk, of the heirs of Adam de Clifton, and John de Orreby, the cousins and heirs of Robert de Tattershall; and of Robert de Bernak, who acquired a third part of the said manors, with the said Hundred, of Alice, his mother, one of the heirs of the aforesaid Robert de Tattershall, by fine paid into the Court of the King; and that the said manors, together with the Hundred, were held of the Crown, in capite, by the service of one knight's fee.⁷ In 1353, John de Orreby died seized of the manor of Cratfield, which he held of Mary, Countess Marshal, by the service of finding her yearly, one pair of shoes, or sixpence in money. The value of the manor was then £12 per annum.⁸ There is considerable intricacy with regard to the tenure of the manor of Cratfield at this period, for notwithstanding the uncontroverted claims of the heirs of De Tattershall, it was returned, in 1338, that Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, and fifth son of Edward I., held it at the day of his death, leaving a yearly rent, or assignation of £6. 1s. 1d., out of it, to Mary, his second, and surviving wife.⁹ In confirmation of which, it appears that in the thirty-sixth of Edward III., it was returned that Mary, Countess of Norfolk, held at her decease, the manor of Walton, with the manor and castle of Framlingham, the manor of Cratfield, and others, of the King, in capite, as parcel of the barony of Norfolk.¹⁰ William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, next obtained the manor of Cratfield, by his marriage with Joap, daughter of Edward de Montacute, by Alice, one of the daughters and coheiresses of Thomas de Brotherton; which lordship he held, inter alia, with the custody of Framlingham Castle.¹¹ In the fifth of Richard II., it was found that William de Ufford, late Earl of Suffolk, held at the day of his death £10

⁵ MSS. D. E. Davy, Esq.

⁷ Harl. MSS. 5193.

¹⁰ Harl. MSS. 708.

⁶ Blomefield, art. Topcroft.

⁸ Idem.

⁹ Mag. Brit.

¹¹ Rot. Scac. de an. 36 Ed. III. Rot. 13.

rent in Cratfield, of the King, in capite, by military service, &c., as parcel of the barony of Suffolk; of which, Margaret, Countess of Norfolk, was sole heiress.

John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and Sir Henry Percy, next appear as lords of the manor of Cratfield; and in a list of knight's fees,¹² it is said that John, Duke of Norfolk, and Henry Percy, Knt., held in Cratfield one knight's fee, which Eva de Tattershall, and Mary, Countess of Norfolk, lately held in that village of John Fitz-Walter. Sir Henry Percy's interest in the Cratfield manor appears to have been derived from his wife Joan, daughter and sole heiress of John de Orreby, whose wife, Isabell, was one of the aunts and heiresses of Robert de Tattershall. John, Duke of Norfolk, paid £10. 13s. 4d. for relief of all his manors and estates.¹³ On the attainder of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, in 1461, George, Duke of Clarence, obtained the manor of Cratfield by grant from the Crown in the following year. The ungenerous condemnation by Edward IV., and the singular mode of death selected by this nobleman, who was drowned in a butt of Malmsey, in the Tower, are well known. By his death, the manor of Cratfield again reverted to the Crown, and was granted, *inter alia*, as parcel of the liberty of the Duke of Norfolk, to John Mowbray, by letters patent of Edward IV., dated December 7th, 1468.

Passing from the Howards, by one of their numerous attainders, Cratfield was granted to the Ratcliffes; for by an *inquisitio post mortem*, taken at Ipswich, on the 29th of January, in the thirty-fourth of Henry VIII., Robert, Earl of Sussex, was found to die on the 26th of November preceding, seized of it, as held of the King in soccage, by fealty, &c., and valued at £22. 10s. 7d.¹⁴ Henry Ratcliffe, son and heir of this nobleman, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, next occurs as lord of the manor of Cratfield, which once more fell to the Crown; and in four years afterwards was exchanged by Henry VIII. for other estates. This appears by an Act of Parliament, passed in the thirty-eighth of that King, which ratifies an exchange between the Crown, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, and Henry, his son, Earl of Arundel and Surrey: they giving to the King the manors of Walton, Trimley, and Falkenham, with the rectories of Walton and Felixstow, in Suffolk, for the castle, manor, and chase of Rysing, and all its appurtenances, with the manors of Thorpe, Gaywood, South Walsham, Halvergate, and Ditchingham, in Norfolk; Doningworth, Cratfield, Hoo, Staverton and Broomswell, in Suffolk; to be held of the King, in capite, by the thirtieth part of a knight's fee, and the rent of £26 per annum, payable at the feast of St. Michael, into the Court of Augmentation.¹⁵ By the attainder, however, of this unfortunate family, Cratfield again became royal property,

¹² Pen. W. S. Fitch, Arm.

¹⁴ Cole's Esch. vol. ii. p. 29.

¹³ Harl. MSS. 5174.

¹⁵ Blomefield.

and was retained by the Crown, till James I., by his letters patent, dated at Westminster, in 1602, granted it to Thomas, Lord Howard de Walden, and Henry Howard, brother to Thomas, late Duke of Norfolk: the former, afterwards Earl of Suffolk; the latter, of Northampton. This manor, upon a division of the family estates, fell to Thomas, Earl of Suffolk, and in 1609 was obtained by Sir Edward Coke, Knt., who died in 1634. Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester, sold it, about the middle of the last century, to Sir Joshua Vanneck, whose descendant, the present Lord Huntingfield, now holds it. It is the paramount manor, and appoints constables, fenreeves, ale-founders, &c., for the parish.

THE MANOR OF CRATFIELD LE ROOS

obtained its name from that ancient family; a member of which, Sir John de Roos, lord Roos of Hamlake, succeeded to it, by marriage with Mary, daughter of Henry, Lord Percy, whose interests in Cratfield have been already noticed. Mary, Lady Roos, died in possession of this manor in 1395, during her mother's lifetime; whose second husband, Sir Constantine de Clifton, and Matilda, wife of Sir Ralph de Cromwell, and daughter of William Bernak, thus obtained it.¹⁶ From this period the possessors are lost sight of till 1593, when Hamon Claxton, Gent., died lord of it,¹⁷ and was succeeded by his son, John Claxton, Esq., who owned it in 1605.¹⁸ Hamond Claxton, Esq., left it by his will to be sold, and his son, Robert, alienated it to Sir Robert Kemp, Bart. "By indres of lease and release, dated the 9th and 10th of November, 1715, between Lucy Claxton, widow, and one of the executrixes of Hamond Claxton, Esq., her late husband, deceased, Henry Hall, Gent., and Elizabeth his wife, late Elizabeth Claxton, one of the daughters and other executrix of the said Hamond Claxton, and Robert Claxton, Gent., only son and heir of the said Hamond Claxton, of the first part, and Sir Robert Kemp, Bart., of the other part, it is recited that the said Hamond Claxton, by his will, dated 7th September, 1711, among other legacies did give to his executrixes all his estates in Livermere, Cratfield, Theberton, &c., in Suffolk, in trust, to be sold for the purposes therein mentioned. It is witnessed that the said Lucy Claxton, Henry Hall, and Elizabeth his wife, and Robert Claxton, for the considerations mentioned in a certain indenture of release of even date, and made between Edmund Lombe, Esq., Arthur Branthwayte, Esq., and William Lombe, Esq., of the one part, and Sir Robert Kemp, of the other part, and in consideration of 10 shillings a piece, did alien, grant,

¹⁶ MSS. D. E. Davy, Esq. Blomefield, &c.

¹⁷ Inq. p. mort. cap. ap. Bury, 18 July, 40 Eliz. H. Claxton, Gen. obt. 20 Aug. 36 Eliz.

¹⁸ Copy of Recovery, dat. 13 May, 3 Jas. I. int. John Brewster, Esq., &c., and John Claxton.

bargain, and sell, &c., to the said Robert Kemp, all that the manor of Cratfield, with the rights, &c., with a capital messuage, and lands, in the said parish, to hold to Sir Robert Kemp, and his heirs, for ever."¹⁹ The *indre* mentioned in the above abstracted deed is a release to Sir Robert Kemp of part of the premises mortgaged for £800. Sir Robert Kemp died in 1734, lord also of Ubbeston, and was succeeded by Sir Robert Kemp, Bart., his son, whose brothers, Sir John, and Sir Benjamin, successively possessed Cratfield, &c. Their nephew and heir, Sir John Kemp, died unmarried in 1771, when his interests here devolved on Mary Kemp, his sister and heiress, who gave the manor of Cratfield le Roos to her mother, Priscilla, wife of Anthony Merry, who sold it to Alexander Adair, Esq.; and it is now held by Sir Robert Shafto Adair, Bart., of Flixton Hall.

In 1336, the Priory of Old Buckenham, in Norfolk, had license to receive divers lands in Tibbenham, in that county, and Cratfield; which estates the monastery held in 1479. The rents were £3. 17s. per an. from the manor of the Earl of Northumberland.²⁰ The lands in Cratfield were, probably, granted by the family of Tattershall, who were great benefactors to Buckenham Priory.

About the year 1390, Richard de Bocking held one fee in Wynston and Cratfield, and Robert de Wayland half a fee in Cratfield, as of Sir Thomas Thorpe's manor of Fundenhall.

THE CHURCH

of Cratfield, with a third part of the manor, was granted by Matilda St. Liz to the monks of St. Neot's in the year 1100, who were bound by her charter to maintain two priests, for ever, to sing mass in their convent for the health of her own soul, that of her father, whose body was buried there, and for all her ancestors and her posterity. William de Albencius, or Albini, her son, confirmed to the monks his mother's donation, as a free eleemosynary gift.²¹ These recluses, with their usual rapacity, procured an appropriation of the revenues of the church, and endowed a vicarage with twenty acres of glebe.²² Upon the dissolution of their house, the rectory and advowson of Cratfield were granted by Edward VI. to Thomas Sidney and Nicholas Haleswelle, who shortly after sold them to Mr. John Lany. They were in the hands of John Lany, Esq., of Ipswich, in 1635, who gave the rectory house, two acres of glebe, and all the tithes, except those of corn, to the Vicar. The impropriation is now in the possession of the Norwich Fire Insurance Office. The family of Lany, who made this partial restoration to the benefice, was of good standing in the parish of Cratfield, and some of its earlier members were distin-

¹⁹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

²¹ Dugdale, ex Regist. Sci. Neoti in Bibl. Cotton.

²⁰ Blomefield.

²² Norwich Domesday.

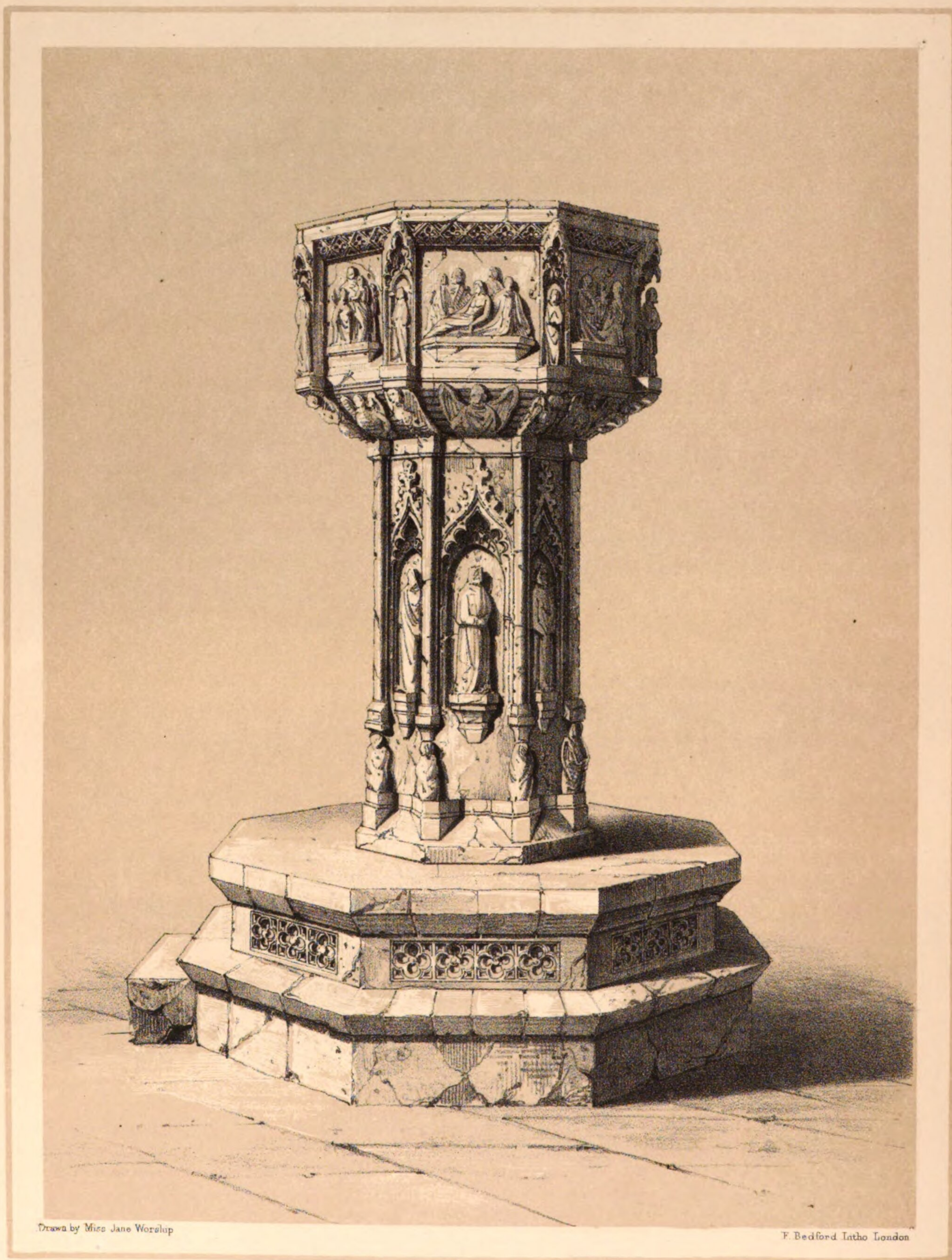
guished servants of the State. John Lany, who died in 1633, was a Counsellor-at-Law, and Recorder of Ipswich. By Mary his wife, daughter of John Pooley, Esq., by Anne, eldest daughter of Thomas, Lord Wentworth, he had John, his heir, who was also a Counsellor-at-Law; and Benjamin Lany, his youngest son, D.D., Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Dean of Rochester. Dr. Lany was employed in the service of Charles II., at Uxbridge, and also attended that monarch in his exile. He was consecrated Bishop of Peterborough, in 1660, and subsequently advanced to the see of Lincoln, and thence to Ely, where he died in 1674.²³ After his death, a volume was published from his papers, entitled 'Observations on a Letter about Liberty and Necessity,' in reply to Thomas Hobbes. Some of his Sermons also passed through the press.

The vicarage of Cratfield, upon an average of eight years, from 1794 to 1801, inclusive, produced a clear annual profit of £ 57. 17s. 10d.²⁴ By the late Commutation Act, the vicarial tithes were fixed at £116, when there were 5 acres, 3 roods, 39 poles, of glebe lands. It was consolidated with the adjoining benefice of Laxfield on the 7th of December, 1753; the present patron being the Rev. Edmond Hollond.

The church is a regular structure, comprising a nave with a north and south aisle, and a spacious chancel. The whole interior is lofty and admirably proportioned, and evinces by many fragments of former taste, how elaborately its appointments were completed. All this is reflected through the dirt and neglect which so miserably contrast its present condition with its ancient splendour. The prevailing style of its architecture refers us to the period of Edward the Third's reign; though, as usual, much perpendicular work has been engrafted on the original design. The aisles are divided from the nave by an arcade of five pointed arches, resting on octangular pillars, composed of an exceedingly fine and hard quality of stone. These sustain a good clerestory, over which is laid a roof of oak which deserves attention. A north chantry, attached to the chancel, now serves as a convenient vestry. The situation of its altar is distinctly traced, and an aumbrey near the east window remains unclosed, though the piscina has disappeared. In this sacellum stand two plain letterns of wood, to which are still attached the chains by which the Bible and other religious books were fastened to their shelves, when the reading of the sacred volume was first permitted to the laity. A fine and huge old chest of oak, banded with iron, and secured by three massive locks, which jointly fasten a large exterior bar, occupies a considerable portion of this chapel. It contains the parish records, and was the gift of Roger Walsh, as we learn from the following legend, painted on its front:

²³ Godwinus de Præs. Angl.

²⁴ Ex inform. Rev. Anthony Collet, Vicar.



FONT IN CRATFIELD CHURCH.

London, Published by the Author.

Printed by Sandilands & Co.

**Ragor Walsche gaf thys cheist;
Praye for hys sowle to Jhu Creist.**

The chancel is divided from the nave by a noble arch, beneath which are apparent the remains of a very elaborately finished screen. The octagonal font, sculptured with the Sacraments of the Romish Church, maintains its original position at the west end of the nave. It is of very lofty proportions and singularly fine effect. Its several panels are peopled with carved figures; and notwithstanding that mutilation pervades the whole design, its original grace and excellence cannot be disguised. The square tower attached to this church, though not of equal character with the fabric itself, exhibits a finely wrought west doorway, on which the letter M., crowned and decorated, is profusely displayed. It contains five bells. A projecting case, composed of massive beams and planks of oak, for the protection of the machinery of the clock, fills, in great measure, the lower story of the interior, and deserves an examination. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and had, before the Reformation, the Guild of St. Thomas. Against the east end of the north aisle is a large escutcheon, bearing the arms of Warner, of four coats, impaling Jernegan, of eight coats, viz.:

1. Warner, or a bend engr. between 6 roses gules, barbed vert.
2. Az. a chev. or between 3 owls arg. Appleyard.
3. Arg. a lion ramp. az. debruised by a bend voided gules; his head resting upon a chief or.
4. Gules, a fess nebulee between 3 estoiles arg. Courtop. Impaling
 1. Jernegan.
 2. Gules, a cross engrailed arg. Inglethorp.
 3. Gules, 3 bars gemelles or, a canton arg. Fitz-Osbert.
 4. Arg. a unicorn erect sab. semee of fleurs-de-lis of the 2nd. Harling.
 5. Arg. on a chev. between cotises, outwardly engrailed sab., 3 escallops or. Gonville.
 6. Sab. a pall reversed erm. Kelvedon.
 7. Sab. a lion ramp. within an orle of cinquefoils arg. Clyfton.
 8. Jernegan.

Monuments.—Hic jacet Robertus Warner, sen., Gen., vir prudens, pius, et honestus; filius et heres Gulielmi Warner, nuper de Cratfield, Gen., filii et heredis Francisci Warner, de Parham, Arm., et Margaretæ Jernegan, unius filiar. Georgii Jernegan, Arm., filii et heredis Johannis Jernegan, nuper de Somerle towne, militis; ætatis suæ 80, 1654, et Eliz. uxor ejus, filia Alexandri Courtop, de Crombrook, in comitatu Cantuariensi, Armig. Robert Warner, jun., Gent., son and heir of Robert Warner, and Margaret his wife, died in August, 1641, aged 23. Sarah, widow of Robert Mynne, Gent., died 6th December, 1724, aged 82. Robert Mynne, Gent., died 2nd December, and was buried the 7th, anno 1708, æt. 78. William, the son of William Fiske, Gent., died 8th April, 1640, aged 70 years and 3 months: he had

issue one son and one daughter, William and Ann, by Elizabeth, the daughter of John Richman, of Hedenham, in Norfolk. Depositum Simonis Smith. Arms: Barry wavy of 8, arg. and az.; on a chief gules, 3 barnacles or. This Simon Smith was descended from Sir Thurston Smith, of this parish, by Willoughby, daughter of Edward Brews, fourth son of Sir John de Brews, of Wenham, in Suffolk. Simon Smith gave the town land to Cratfield, the particulars of which will be noticed hereafter. In the deed of gift he is called the lord of the manor; but he held the tenure of it only. In 1609, the rent from this lordship, called "Cratfield manor, late the Earl of Sussex's," was £ 3. 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. His descendants settled at Winston, in the parish of Gillingham, in Norfolk, which property was obtained by marriage with the sister and heiress of William Roberts, town clerk of Yarmouth.²⁵ William Borrett, died 15th November; Mary, his wife, 17th December, and their child, 18th January, 1698. Joseph Gibson, A.M., a man approved, and of renown, died 15th October, 1763, aged 48. John Martin, late of Laxfield, obt. 17th March, 1747, aged 62. Emma Farrer, died 1816, aged 11 years. Emily Farrer, an infant, died 1819. Charles Liddel Farrer, son of Joseph Liddel Farrer, Vicar of Cratfield with Laxfield, and Mary, his wife, died 15th February, 1815. Anne, daughter of Thomas Freston, Clk., and Anne his wife, died an infant, 3rd Sept. 1727. Charles, their son, died an infant, 17th June, 1726. Thomas Scrivener, son of Thomas Freston, died an infant, 13th February, 1729. Charlotte Freston, died an infant, 7th May, 1730. Charles, died an infant, 20th October, 1736. The Rev. Thomas Freston, LL.B., sixth son of Richard Freston, of Mendham, in the county of Norfolk, Esq., twenty-five years Vicar of Cratfield and Laxfield, died 26th October, 1743, aged 51. Anne, daughter of the Rev. Charles Scrivener, of Sibton, left John and Anne, only survivors of a large family. Arms: Freston, az. on a fesse or, 3 leopards' faces gules, impaling Scrivener, ermine, on a chief indented az. 3 leopards' faces or. Anne Freston, died 7th November, 1761, aged 68. Thomas, son of Thomas Hayes, Gent., and Frances his wife, died 26th June, 1726, aged 29 years. Arms: Hayes, ermine, 3 lions' heads erased. . . . Bridgett, wife of Thomas Hayes, Esq., and daughter of James Hobart, of Mendham, was buried the last day of October, 1686, aged 44 years. Thomas Hayes, Gent., died 1st May, 1681, born 1630. Franciscus Elond, nuper Vicarius, obt. 27 Junij, 1602.

In the south aisle is an old pew, erected by Simon Smith in the sixteenth century, bearing this inscription:

S. S.

Fecit a^o Salvatoris et Domini

1572.

²⁵ Blomefield, who mentions a monument in the Beauchamp chapel, in the cathedral church at Norwich, to "Lydia, daughter of Mr. John Smith, of Cratfield, who died March 16, 1671, æt. 15."

VICARS OF CRATFIELD.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
John de Temseford	1315	Prior and Convent of St. Neot's.
John de Forda	1329	Id.
Henry Cokyl, de Eton	1358	The King, <i>ratione temp.</i> Prior.
Adam de Lufwyk	1361	Prior of St. Neot's.
Thomas Yonge	1376	The King, <i>eâdem ratione.</i>
Thomas Wright	1395	Id.
Robert Gerard	1431	Prior, &c., St. Neot's.
John Caryell, de Redenhall	1439	Id.
John Hert	1444	Id.
Peter Tunbek	1452	Id.
John Chyrche, alias Lestan	1458	The Bishop, by lapse.
William Williamson	1502	Prior, &c., St. Neot's.
Idem	1508	Id.
Robert Thirketill	1533	Id.
Thomas Millesent	1548	Assigns of the Convent.
William Byllinge	1554	John Lany, Gent.
John Page	1556	Id.
Richard Wheatly	1562	Id.
Francis Eland	1566	Id.
Gabriel Eland	1602	Id.
Edward Clifford		
Thomas Lany	1707	Sir Charles Blois, Bart.
Thomas Freston	1717	John Middleton, Gent.
John Theophilus Desaguliers	1743	Thomas, Lord Lovell.
Francis Jones	1753	Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart.
John Offley	1758	Id.
James Dindale	1792	The Bishop, by lapse.
Anthony Collett	1794	Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart.
Idem, 2nd time	1800	Lord Huntingfield.
Thomas Harrison	1803	Id.
Joseph Liddell Farrer	1804	Id.

Prior S. Neoti habet eam in proprios usus. Vicarius ejusdem habet mansum pertinen. vicarie cum xx acris terre. Estimatio illius xxi marc. Estimatio vicarie ejusdem vi marc. ds. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis vi^d. et pro Paschali termino vi^d. Denarij S. Petri vij^d. ob. Norwich Domesday.

At the Assizes holden at Bury St. Edmund's, in March, 1812, Edmund Thrower was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death, for the wilful murder of Thomas and Elizabeth Carter, father and daughter, of this parish, on the 16th of October, 1793, by fracturing their skulls with a hammer. He was executed on the 23d of March, 1812, at Ipswich.

Charities.—The town estate consists of a messuage, called the town house, with land adjoining, containing nearly two acres. Two farms comprising 91 acres, and 28 acres, respectively, in the parish of Cratfield. The fourth part of a manor called Buceham's, and a messuage, with about 18 acres of land, in the parish of Horham. It appears by a deed, dated 20th October, ninth Elizabeth, between Symond Smyth, of Cratfield, Yeoman, of the one part, and William Dowsing, Edmund Brokebrand, and John Newson, of the other part, that the two first-mentioned farms were a grant from Symond Smyth, held of his manor of Cratfield. The premises are mentioned to have been previously held by the persons to whom they were granted, and let by them, with the consent of the inhabitants of Cratfield. The purchase-money is expressed to be paid by the above three persons, and no trust appears upon the face of the deed, but it has an indorsement, seemingly contemporaneous with the deed, wherein it is expressed that the grant is made at the charge of the whole township of Cratfield, and that Symond Smyth will be for ever esteemed as a great benefactor to the township. The consideration money was £70, which sum was paid by two instalments. The appointment of new trustees contains no statement of trusts. The rents have been applied as payments of church-rates, and for such other purposes as the parishioners, assembled in vestry, have directed. The Rev. Edmond Hollond, the patron of the vicarage, having desired, a few years since, to erect a school in the parish of Cratfield, unconnected with the National Society, and for the admission of the children of Dissenters as well as Churchmen, the parishioners agreed to grant a piece of the above town land for a site; but a question as to their legal right to do so having arisen, the following correspondence on this subject took place:

To the Secretary of the Committee of Council on Education.

SIR,

Halesworth, Feb. 19th, 1845.

The Reverend Edmond Hollond of Benhall (who is in correspondence with you relative to a school for the parish of Laxfield) is desirous of erecting a school in the above parish of Cratfield, and the parishioners have agreed to grant a piece of town land for a site: we are, however, rather doubtful whether the town property in question is vested in certain trustees, or in the churchwardens and overseers; and as we believe the Committee of Council on Education are willing to afford their assistance in removing difficulties in the way of obtaining a grant of a site, we venture to solicit your advice, or that of the Counsel of your department.

The land in question is part of a farm of about twelve acres, which, by a deed dated 20th October, 9 Elizabeth, was granted by the lord of the manor to three persons by name; the consideration money was £70, and is expressed to have been paid by the grantees, and no trust whatever is declared in the deed. The deed, however, has an indorsement, apparently of contemporaneous date, in which it is stated that "the grant is made at the charge of the whole township of Cratfield," and that Symond Smyth (the lord of the manor) would be for ever esteemed as a great benefactor to the township. There is, therefore, nothing to show upon what trusts or for what purposes the property was originally granted. New trustees have from time to time been appointed, but no specific trusts have been

mentioned, it being merely stated that the property is to be held upon the same trusts as it has usually been held.

From the churchwardens' accounts and the statements of the parishioners, it appears that the rents have always been received by the churchwardens (and not by the trustees), and applied in such manner as the parishioners, assembled in vestry, have directed, and the application in accordance with such direction has been for the reparations of the church, (and there have in consequence been but one or two church-rates for a series of years,) the purchase of coals for the poor, binding out parish apprentices, for the payment of emigration expenses, and for the reduction of the poor-rates; in short, the entire income, with the exception of such part as the parishioners have given away in charity, appears to have been applied in reduction of church and poor-rates: and the parishioners consider that that they might, if they thought proper, apply the whole rents in the reduction of the rates. Under these circumstances, we consider that this property is clearly property "belonging to the parish," within the meaning of the 17th section of the Act, 59 Geo. III. c. 12, and that it is therefore now vested in the churchwardens and overseers, and that the proper parties to convey will be the Guardians of the Union, with the consent of the Poor Law Commissioners, and upon the application of the parish. The decisions upon the construction of the section alluded to have, however, been so various and difficult to reconcile with each other, that we feel some hesitation in adopting that construction of the Act which appears to us to be correct, without having our opinion confirmed by some better authority; and we have the less reluctance in troubling you on the subject as the question would probably come before you when the draft is prepared. And it is therefore much more satisfactory that it should be disposed of before the forms required by the Poor Law and Workhouse Acts are gone through.

We remain, Sir,

Your very obedient servants,

CRABTREE & CROSS.

To which the following answer was returned:

Committee of Council on Education, Privy Council Office, Downing Street.

GENTLEMEN,

22nd February, 1845.

Your letter of the 19th instant having been referred to their Lordships' Counsel, he reports that it appears to him, upon the statement you have submitted to this Committee, that the proposed site of the Cratfield School may properly be considered as property of the parish, within the meaning of the 17th section of the fifty-ninth Geo. III. cap. 12, and consequently that it is vested in the churchwardens and overseers of the parish, under that statute, and must be conveyed under the 6th section of the fourth and fifth of Victoria, cap. 38, by the Guardians of the Union, with the consent of the Poor Law Commissioners.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Messrs. Crabtree and Cross, Halesworth.

J. P. K. SHUTTLEWORTH.

The farm of 18 acres, situated in the parish of Horham, was purchased for the sum of £180. The rental of these estates is applied to the reparation of the church, and to other parochial purposes. About £30 per annum are expended in the purchase of coals, which are partly given, and partly sold at reduced prices, to poor persons of the parish. The portion of the dividends of the stock belonging to Leman's Charity²⁶ is

²⁶ See Brampton.

applied in payment of the salary to the master of a Sunday School, and in the purchase of books for the scholars. The parish of Cratfield contains, according to the commutation map, 2122 acres, 3 roods, 25 perches, of land. The population in 1841 amounted to 720 souls.

Darsham.

At the time of the Norman Survey there were no less than six manors in Darsham, then written Dersham, and Dersam. Of these, the King held two; Robert Malet, lord of the Honour of Eye, possessed three; and Roger Bigot one; with a very considerable estate to which was attached the advowson of the church. Of the king's property, one lordship had been held by a Saxon priest, called Alwin. It was a small manor, comprising only 30 acres, with half a church, which means, I presume, an alternate presentation: it was endowed with 6 acres of glebe, and valued at 10 shillings. But in Stikingland, a hamlet of this village, the same Alwin held a more important manor, valued, in the Confessor's time, at 25 shillings, and at the Survey at 30.¹

Robert Malet's three manors are thus recorded. Edric, a free Saxon, held 94 acres for a manor, under whom six free-men farmed, with protection, 36 acres in the Confessor's reign. This estate was valued at 6 shillings. Blacheman, also a free-man, held 30 acres for a manor, under the protection of Edric, before the Conquest; but at the Survey, Galt, the son of Richer, held it. This was valued at 10 shillings. This Blacheman had a free-man under his protection in the Confessor's days, with 22 acres of land; valued at 4 shillings and 4 pence. Here the King and the Earl had the soc. Edric, himself, held 60 acres for a manor, which, when Domesday was compiled, belonged to Fulchered; valued in Saxon times at 8 shillings, but at the Survey at 10. The King and the Earl had also the soc of this property.² Robert Malet retained in demesne four acres held by a free-man, valued at eight-pence.³

Roger Bigot's lordship and estate in Dersham are very minutely described.⁴ Ansketil, a priest, held one carucate of land, which was (divided) among seven free-men. Of these, one was named Toli. In the Confessor's time there were two bordars, but at the Survey eleven. Then half a carucate was retained in demesne, but now one: the tenants had always two carucates among them. Leuric Cobbe had half the protection of these, which belonged to the King, and Agelward held it under him.

¹ Domesday. Terra Regis, 282.

² Idem, 310, b. 313.

³ Idem, 314.

⁴ Idem, 334.

Turketel had the other half, of whom the same Agelward held it; and Alnoth, a man belonging to Norman, for the Earl. Brumanbeard, a man also belonging to Norman, had half, and Briman the other moiety. Wluric, the Deacon, the son of Godwin Algar, and Hosmund, a man belonging to Edric of Laxfield, held 16 acres and 1 rood of land, which Alwina, a free Saxon woman, held in the Confessor's time, of whom Norman had the protection, with 24 acres, except one rood which Blakeman held before the Conquest. This Blakeman belonged to Edric of Laxfield. William Malet was seized of this estate when he died. Ansketil, the Chaplain, held all this of Roger Bigot, which was valued at 25 shillings. Of this land Robert Malet claimed 6 acres, which a certain man of his gave with his daughter, whom a man belonging to Roger Bigot married in King William's time. And Alnoth held 24 acres in Kireschall, valued at 5 shillings. The King and the Earl had equal shares of the soc. Swart Ling, a free-man, held Stikeland in the Confessor's reign, but at the Survey, Cus, and Akile Sufreint, two men belonging to Roger Bigot, held 80 acres for a manor; valued at 16 shillings. This land was one leuca in length, and five furlongs in breadth, and paid seven-pence half-penny gelt. The King and Earl had the soc. In the same village were five free-men, formerly belonging to Ulf; namely, Gode, Alfwin, his brother, Aluric, the son of Bund, Osketil, and Bunda, the smith: these five held 60 acres; and a free-woman of the same village, of whom Norman had the protection, held 20 acres; and one free-man 8 acres. There was a church with 24 acres of glebe, and one acre of meadow, and this was worth 19 shillings. The King and the Earl had here also the soc. Hugo de Corbun held this property of Roger Bigot.

These estates subsequently merged into four lordships, distinguished as Darsham cum Yoxford, Abbot's, as belonging to Leiston Abbey, Austen's, and Gerrard's.

The first of these was undoubtedly the estate held by Ansketil, the Priest, and to which was attached the advowson of the church. These, as we have seen, were the property of Roger Bigot, at the Survey, by whom they were granted to his monastery of Cluniac Monks at Thetford, founded in 1104. Upon the returns of villages and their lords, made in the reign of Edward I., the monks of Thetford held this manor; and when William de Ventadoro, their Prior, obtained the King's license to go into foreign parts, brother Stephen de Larriens and brother John le Monch, of Garboldesham, were appointed his attorneys here. Their temporalities in Darsham were taxed at £ 8. 11s. 4d.

In the reign of Edward II., Roger Edmund, of Yoxford, sought to recover this manor from the hands of the Prior of Thetford, as being his right, derived from his ancestor, Matthew, who was seized of the same in the reign of King John. The which Matthew bequeathed his interests therein to Edmund, his son and heir, from whom the right descended to William, his son and heir, and from him passed to Richard, his son and heir, the father of the claimant. The Prior appeared by his attorney, and declared

he was not called on to defend his right: that the manor was the property of the prior and monks of Thetford, and that he claimed the same. A day, however, was fixed for him to show by what tenure he held the property in question.⁵ In 1324, the manor and church of Darsham were seized by the King as belonging to an alien priory; the monastery of Thetford paying an annual stipend to the Abbot of Cluny, in France.⁶ The revenues of the priory were in consequence leased to the Earl of Norfolk; and in 1349, Maria, Countess of Norfolk, presented William Sucling to the vicarage, by the concession of the Crown. In 1375, the Earl of Norfolk prevailed upon Edward III. to enfranchise the Priory at Thetford, upon which the monks regained their interests at Darsham, which they held till the ruin of their house, when this manor and advowson were granted, *inter alia*, to the Howards. They afterwards passed to Edward Hemings, Esq., who possessed them in the eighteenth of Elizabeth, and built the old manor-house called Darsham Hall, now reduced, like most mansions of its date, to a farm-house.

This gentleman sold his estates here to Thomas Bedingfeld, Esq., of Fleming's Hall, in Bedingfield, who presented to the church in 1616, and left the manor and advowson to his eldest son, Philip Bedingfeld, of Ditchingham, Esq. He sold them to his younger brother, Sir Thomas Bedingfeld, Commissioner of the Great Seal, in the time of the Long Parliament, and one of the Judges in the Court of Common Pleas, to King Charles the First. Sir Thomas died on the 24th of March, 1660, at Darsham Hall, and was buried in the church here. Elizabeth Bedingfeld, widow, presented to the vicarage in 1683, and was succeeded in the manorial rights of the lordship of Darsham by the Rous family, who continue in possession, the Right Hon. the Earl of Stradbroke being the present owner.

ABBOT'S MANOR

obtained its name from the monastic establishment at Leiston, to which abbey it was early granted, and was probably a portion, if not the whole, of the estate held at the Survey by Robert Malet; because, in the escheats of Edward II. lands are mentioned as held by the Abbot of the Honour of Eye, lying in Darsham, Middleton, and Fordley. In the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of Pope Nicholas, the Abbot of Leiston's lands and rents here were taxed at £4. 3s. 2d. These, with the Abbot's manor, were granted in the twenty-eighth of Henry VIII. to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, to be held of the Crown by the service of a sixtieth part of a knight's fee, &c.; valued at £4. 18s.⁷

These possessions, with view of frank-pledge, &c., were subsequently granted to Thomas Denton, Esq., and Richard Nottingham, with license of alienation to Reginald Gybons or Gibbons. By an inquisition taken at Ipswich after the death of this gentle-

⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁶ Blomefield.

⁷ Cole's Esch. vol. iv. p. 14.

man, on the 20th of March, in the first of Elizabeth, he was found to die on the 16th of December previous, seized of these estates; and in the 16th of the same reign, license was granted to "John Guybon" to alienate the manor of Darsham, alias Abbot's Hall, in Darsham, Middleton, Fordley, &c., to Edward Heminge. From him they passed with the manor of Darsham cum Yoxford to the Bedingfelds and Rouses, and are now held by the Earl of Stradbroke.

AUSTEN'S MANOR.

Of this lordship I find no mention in very early deeds. In some old descriptions, however, of estates in Darsham, certain portions of the farms are said to abut upon "lands of the manor of Austen's," and "lands of the fee of Austen's." It appears to have followed in the later transfers with the preceding manors, and is now in the possession of the Earl of Stradbroke.

GERRARD'S MANOR

acquired its appellation from a family of that name. In the ninth of Henry IV., 1408, William Gerard de Dersham released to William Phelip and others, all his right in certain lands in Dersham, Yoxford, Middleton, Theberton, and Westleton, in the county of Suffolk. The Bedingfelds held this manor afterwards, with their other lordships in this parish, with which it was conveyed to the ancestors of Lord Stradbroke. These four manors are not all consolidated, as is generally supposed, but form at the present day *two* distinct lordships, termed the manor of Darsham cum Yoxford and the manor of Abbot's, Austen's, and Gerrard's.

Cheyney's Green, Burstill Green, &c., mentioned by Kirby as hamlets of this parish, are more properly small commons or "Greens," which obtained their names from early occupiers, or proprietors. In the reign of Edward I., it was returned that Simon Cubaud, Clerk, bailiff of the Hundred, who appears to have been a most lawless official, seized the person of John le Brun, of Darsham, and retained him in confinement, until he redeemed himself by the payment of half a mark.⁸ In an old list of knights' fees⁹ are the following entries relating to Darsham:

Priore et monachis be. Marie de Thetford ten. in Dersham di. f. mil. de Duce Norff. iij^s. iij^d.

Ada Clerk de Redgrave ten. in Dersham iij^{to} pt. j. f. mil. de Com. Suff. ut de honor. de Eye, quā august. fil. Willi. nup. tenuit de eod. honor xx^d.

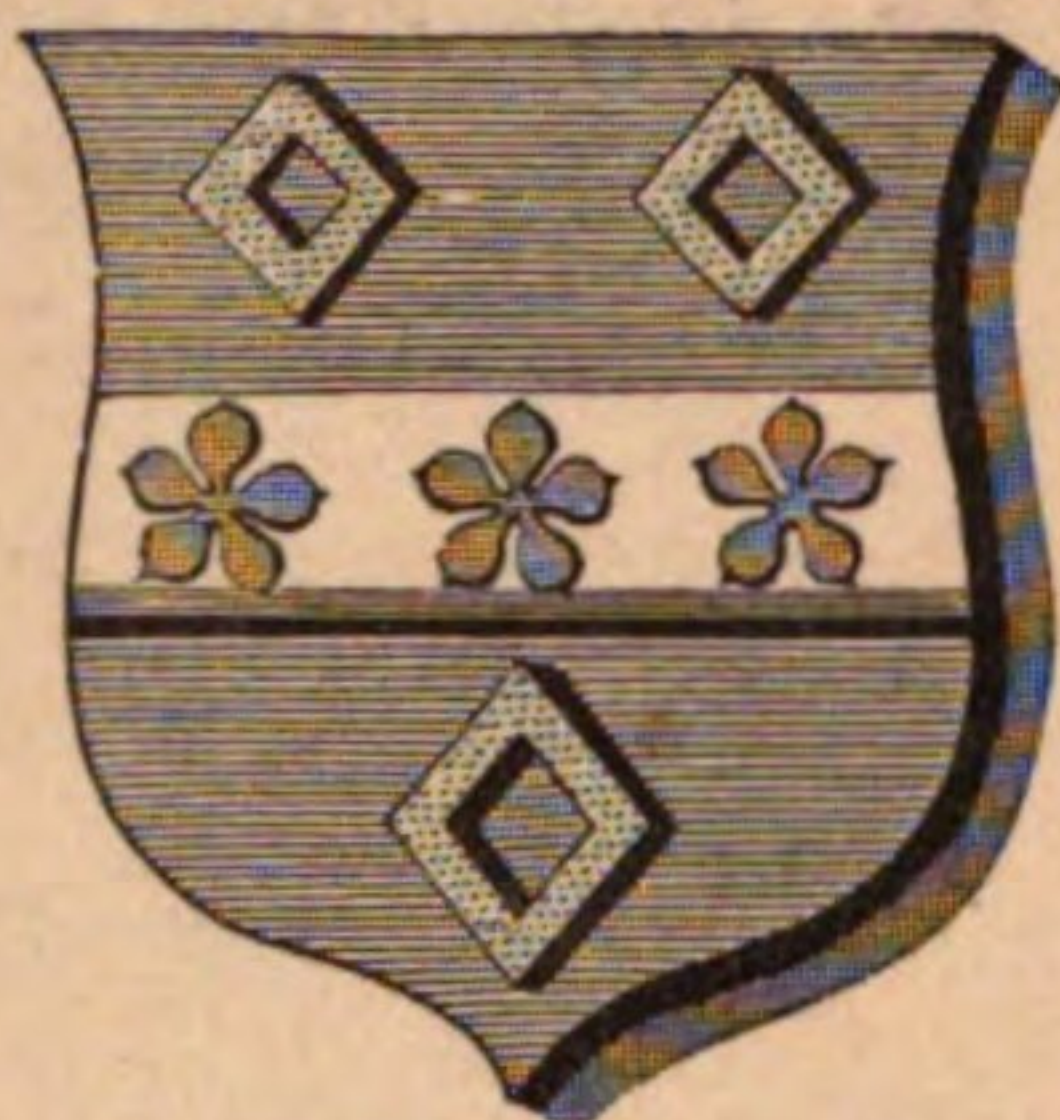
Abbe de Leyston ten. in Dersham iij^{to} j. fe. mil. de maner. de Horsford, quā dict. Abbas nup. tenuit de eodm maner.

⁸ Rot. Hund.

⁹ Pen. W. S. Fitch, Arm.

The Chantry of Wingfield had lands in this parish and in Walpole.¹⁰

Darsham House, in this parish, is the seat of Charles Purvis, Esq., formerly Lieutenant-Colonel of the Royal Dragoons.



Purbis.

This gentleman derives his descent from William Purves, of Abbey Hill, near Edinburgh, who was living there in the early part of the seventeenth century. The first of the family who settled in England, and became connected with Darsham, was George Purvis, Esq., a Captain in the Royal Navy, who married Margaret Berry, buried at Darsham, in March, 1717. Their eldest son, George Purvis, Esq., was Commissioner of the Navy, and representative in Parliament for Aldborough, in this county. He died 10th March, 1740, and was succeeded by Charles Wager Purvis, Esq., his eldest son, a Rear-Admiral in the Royal Navy, who died in January, 1772, and lies buried at Darsham. By Amy Godfrey, (niece of Dr. Mawson, Bishop of Ely,) who died in 1777, he had, besides other children, Thomas Purvis, his second son, Rector of Melton in Suffolk, and Charles Purvis, Esq., his eldest son and heir, High Sheriff for this county in 1794. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Holden Cruttenden, Esq., and left issue Charles Purvis, the present representative of the family; Edward, a military officer, and two daughters, Elizabeth, who married the Rev. Edward Ravenshaw, of the county of Wilts, and Sarah Ann, who died at Bath, in 1797. Colonel Purvis married Margaret Eleanor, daughter and coheir of John Randall, Esq., and has issue.

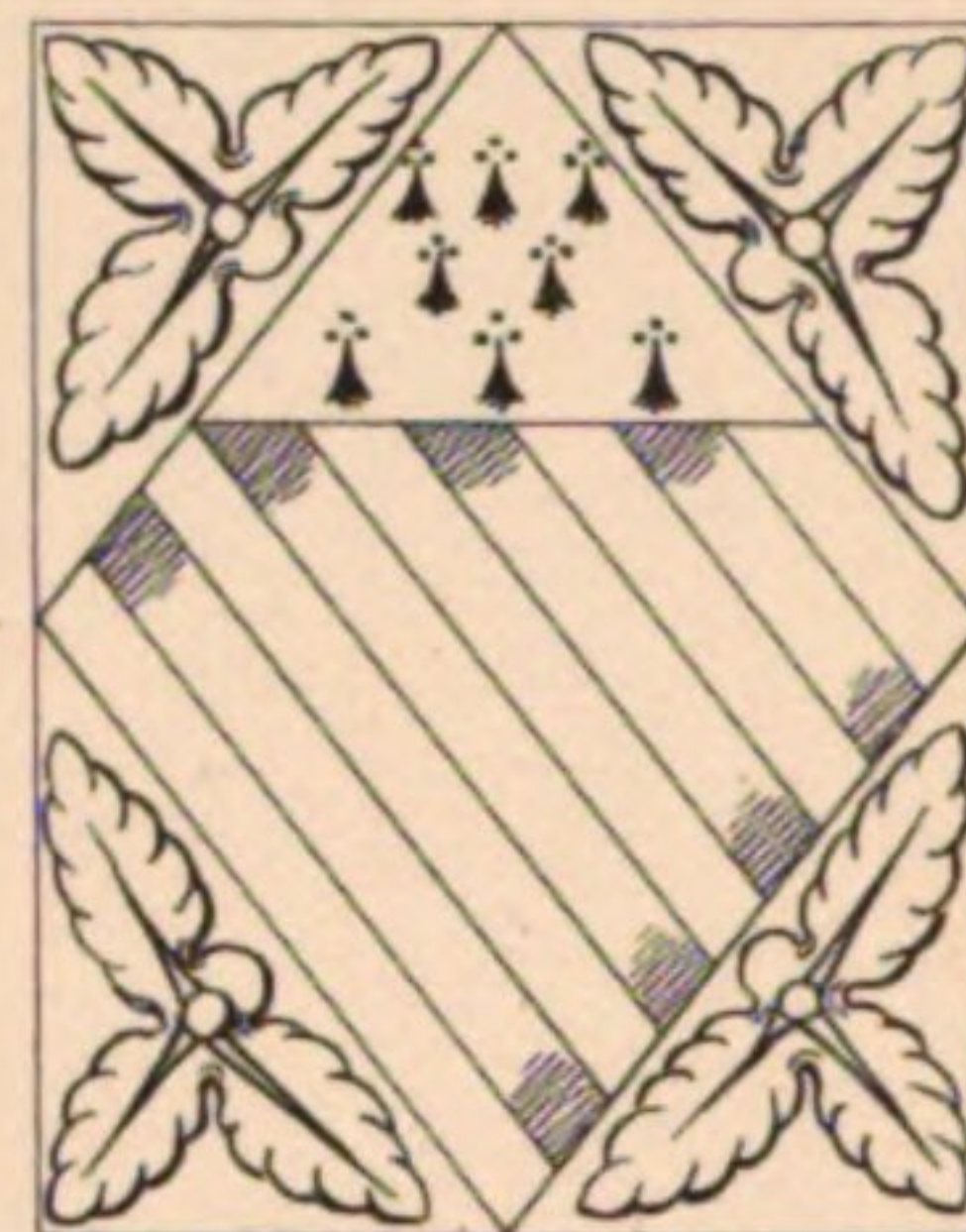
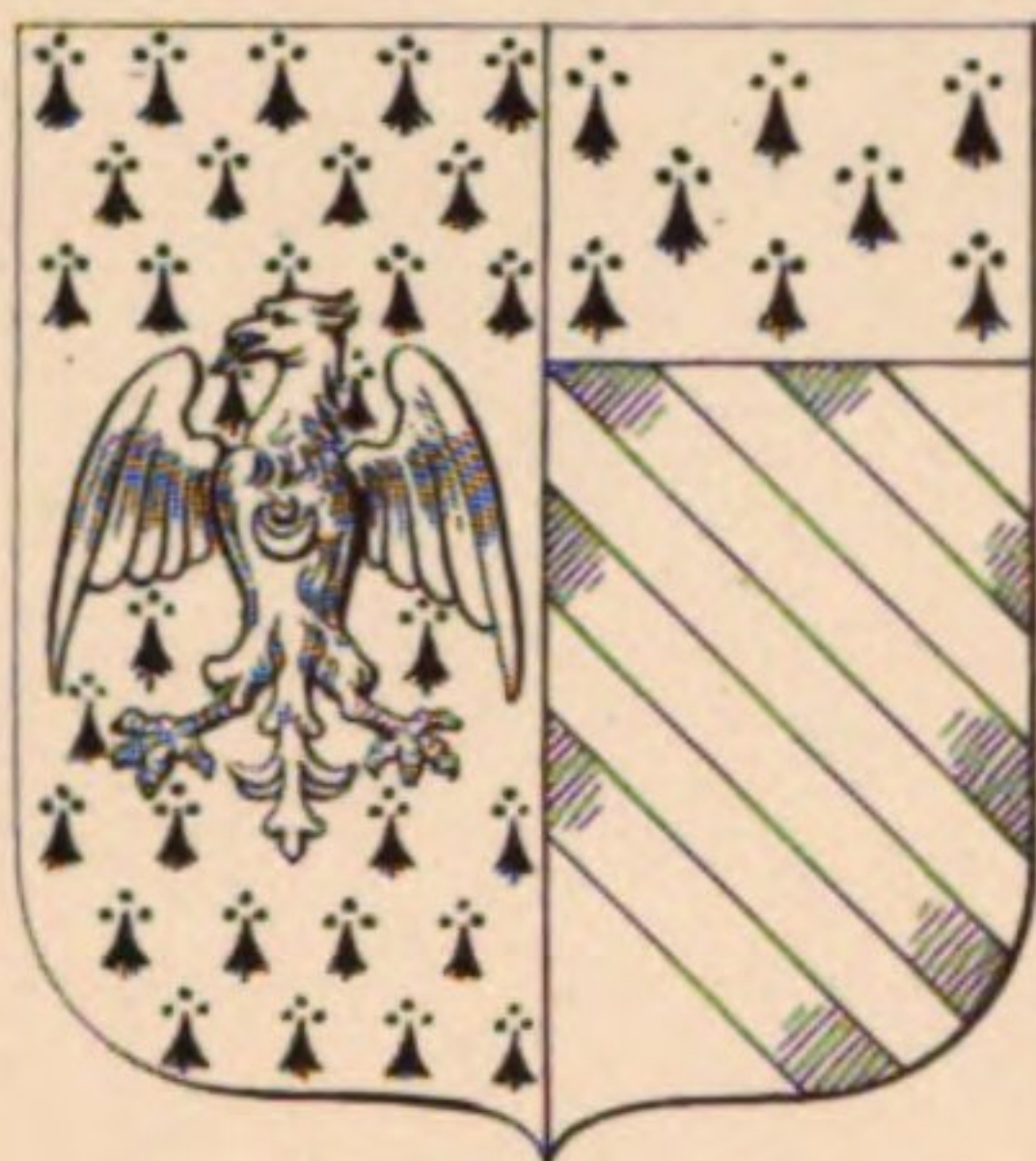
THE CHURCH,

dedicated to All Saints, comprises a nave, covered with lead, and a chancel, tiled. At the west end stands a square embattled tower of flint-work, open to the body of the church, containing four bells; one of which bears an inscription to St. Thomas:

Sancte Thoma, ora pro nobis;

and the other three the date of 1656, and John Brend, the maker's name. In the

¹⁰ Esch. 6 Hen. VI. n. 5.



HERE LYETH BVRIED^E BODY OF M^{IS} ANNE
BEDINGFEILD LATE WIFE OF EVSTACE
BEDINGFEILD OF HOLME-HALE IN^E Y COVNT:
OF NORF:ESQ: WHO PVT OFF HER MORTALI-
TIE THE 29 DAY OF MARCH A^O 1641
BEING OF AGE 80 YEARES & 7 MONTHES.

²/₃ the real size.

BRASS IN DARSHAM CHURCH.

chancel are some windows of perpendicular character, very deeply splayed, and in the nave some good old open seats of carved oak, and an octangular font, the panels of which bear—1, the symbols of the Trinity; 3, the arms of Edward the Confessor; 5, a shield with three crowns, probably the arms of East Anglia; 7, the symbols of the Crucifixion; the intermediate sides being sculptured with lions. Round the base is the following legend, still legible, though considerably mutilated:

Orate p. aīa Dñi. Galfri. Symond, rectoris de Bradwell, q. istā fontem fieri fecit in honore dei.

This legend satisfactorily fixes the date of this font, within the short period of six years; as Galfridus Symonds was instituted to Bradwell in 1404, and was succeeded by Thomas Boof, in 1410.¹¹ He was called Galfridus Symonds, alias Geoffry de Dersham, having been born in this village, to which he presented this lasting memorial of his piety. He was Rector of Lopham, in Norfolk, which he resigned in 1404, for Bradwell, and is frequently mentioned as Sir Geoffry Symond of Dersham.

Monuments.—The first in order of date is a black letter legend to the memory of Marion Reve.

Orate p̄ aīa marione Rebe cui aīa ppiciet. de.

This lady was probably a relative, if not the wife, of Thomas Reve, of Darsham, who, by his will, dated January 20th, 1482, desires to be buried in Darsham church-yard, and leaves to the high altar of Darsham, for tithes neglected and forgotten 10*s.*; to the high altar of Westleton, 20*d.*; to the reparation of Westleton church, 3*s.* 4*d.*; to the Friars Preachers at Dunwich, for a trental, 10*s.*; to the Friars Minors at Dunwich, for the same, 10*s.*; to the Augustine Friars of Orford, 3*s.* 4*d.*; to the Carmelite Friars at Orford, 3*s.* 4*d.*; and wills that a priest should sing for him, for one year, in Darsham church; to be paid by William Reve, his son.

Nearly opposite to the reading-desk lies a floor-stone, inlaid with the effigy of a female, and two escutcheons of arms. The figure is in a stiff attitude, and enveloped in an outer garment, which has been aptly likened to a "watchman's great-coat."¹² The inscription informs us that it is commemorative of

MRS. ANNE BEDINGFEILD, LATE WIFE OF EUSTACE BEDINGFEILD, OF HOLME HALE, IN YE COUNT. OF NORF., ESQ., WHO PUT OFF HER MORTALITIE THE 29 DAY OF MARCH, A° 1641, BEING OF AGE 80 YEARES & 7 MONTHES.

Eustace Bedingfeld, Esq., husband of the above-named lady, was the second son of Anthony Bedingfeld, Esq., of Holm Hale, who died in 1514, by Elizabeth, daughter

¹¹ Vide vol. i. p. 327.

¹² Cotman's Brasses.

and coheiress of Ralph Danyell, Esq., of Swaffham, in Norfolk, and was a scion of the house of Oxburgh; his father, Anthony, being the third son of Sir Edmund Bedingfeld, Knt., by Grace, his wife, daughter of the Lord Marney.¹³ The maiden name of Mrs. Eustace Bedingfeld is not recorded in any of the pedigrees of that ancient and wide-spreading family; but the arms, impaled by her husband on the tomb, are those of Hawkes of Staffordshire; or perhaps Hawke of Treveven, in Cornwall. The latter family bore bendy of six az. and or, a chief ermine; and if it could be shown that the "watchman's great-coat" bore any affinity to the dress then fashionable among the elder ladies of that primitive and remote province, it would greatly assist us in the solution of this genealogical difficulty. The monument in question, lying on a part of the floor which is subjected to the tread of a great portion of the congregation, is already so worn, as to have been traced by the writer with considerable difficulty.¹⁴ There is a large monument placed against the north wall of the chancel to the memory of Sir Thomas Bedingfeld. It bears that knight's armorial cognizance of the red eagle, impaling Hoskins—per pale gules and az. a chev. engrailed or, between 3 lioncels ramp. arg.—and the following inscription:

"Here in the vault by his father and mother, lyeth buried the body of Sir Thomas Bedingfeild, Knt., one of the Society of Gray's Inne, eminent in the knowledge and practice of y^e law: made Attorney-General of the Dutchy of Lancaster, and one of y^e Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, by King Charles the 1st, of blessed memory; upon whose murder he laid down his place, and all public employments, retiring himself to this town, where he died, March 24th, 1660, being about 68 years of age.

¹³ Blomefield.

¹⁴ "Rubbings," or facsimiles of sepulchral brasses, are now obtained with celerity and cleanliness, but appear to have been effected by the first collectors by a laborious process, and a cumbrous machinery—ink-pots, flannels, brushes, and rollers, forming a small part only of their accoutrements. The method adopted by Sir John Cullum, who was among the earliest of our antiquaries to appreciate the value of these memorials, is preserved with his other papers at Hardwick House, and it may not prove uninteresting to detail it here. "13 March, Mr. Ashby and I, with the assistance of a printer's boy, make our first essay in taking off impressions from sepulchral brasses, in St. Mary's church, at Bury. At first we took them off with the smooth parts of the brass black, and the engraven strokes white, as I had seen done by Tyson and Gough. This we did, thinking that without heavy weights, or great forces, we could not take them off, as common copper-plates. But upon trial we found that by jumping on the flannel with the heels of our boots, and taking care that the paper was sufficiently wet, we took off good impressions with the marks of the graver black. Ashby thought that the printer's ink was too thick, and might be made thin enough to lay on with a common brush; but in that case the impressions would be so moist, that I think they could not easily be carried off without rubbing. I have since thought, that instead of jumping on the flannel with all one's weight, a mallet, covered with soft leather, or flannel, and stuffed with hair at its ends, would do as well, if not better, and with less labour—No—its strokes shake the paper awry, and make the marks double."

He had to wife, Elizabeth, the daughter of Charles Hoskins, of the county of Surrey, Esquire, sometime citizen of London; by whom he had one son and three daughters. His only son, Thomas, married Harriet, the daughter and heyre of Philip Bacon, of Wolverston, in this county, Esq. His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, died at nine years of age. His second daughter, Mary, married Sir John Knivett, of Ashwell Thorpe, in the county of Norfolk, Knight of y^e Bath. His third daughter, Dorothy, married Neville Cateline, of Kirby Cane, in the same county, Esq. And for the preservation of the memory of this worthy, pious, learned, and good man, was this monument erected by Dame Elizabeth Bedingfeld, his relict, A.D. 1662."

At the lower part of the monument are these arms:

1. Knyvett, arg., a bend engrailed within a bordure sable, impaling Bedingfeld.
2. Bedingfeld impaling Bacon, gules, on a chief arg., 2 mullets sable.
3. Cateline, party per chev. az. and or, 3 lions pass. guard. counterchanged, impaling Bedingfeld.

Dame Elizabeth Bedingfeld, relict of Sir Thomas, died at Darsham, on the 19th of July, 1699, and was buried there on the 22nd, being 95 years of age.¹⁵

Charlotte Peyton, third daughter of the late Sir Henry Peyton, Bart., of Hagbech Hall, in Norfolk, died March 6th, 1807, aged 30 years. Arms, sab. a cross engrailed or.

Mrs. Emma Charlton, of the family of the Charltons of Lidford, in the county of Hereford, died 22nd November, 1752.

George Purvis, Capt. R. N., Commissioner of the Navy, and representative in Parliament for the borough of Aldborough, died 10th March, 1740, aged 61. Elizabeth, his wife, died 1st June, 1739, aged 45. Charles Wager Purvis, Rear-Admiral, died 15th January, 1772, aged 57. Ann, his widow, died 21st December, 1777, aged 58. Henrietta Maria, daughter of the above, died 27th February, 1769, aged 13. Charles Purvis, of Darsham, and of Bath, died 10th December, 1808, aged 65. Elizabeth, relict of Charles Purvis, died at Bath, 25th March, 1816, aged 63. George John Purvis, son of Lieut.-Colonel Purvis and Margaret Eleanor his wife, Lieutenant in the East India Company's 39th Regt. Madras Native Infantry, died at sea, in the Straits of Malacca, on the 9th of May, 1841, aged 27.

The earliest baptismal entry in the parish registers occurs in 1539, but it is very remarkable that a marriage is recorded as having taken place in 1536. "Henry Goche and Margaret Baldwin war married the first daye of Maye, 1536;" an entry which must have been made upon the first establishment of these records, two years subsequently to the performance of the marriage ceremony; probably at the desire of the parties themselves.

¹⁵ Le Neve's MSS. in Heraldry, 1711.

In these registers are several curious entries.

"A license granted to Mr. Thomas Southwell to eat meat in Lent, aged 82, and sickly, by John Eachard, for which he paid 6^s. 8^d., for the use of the poor in Darsham, according to the Statute, 4 March, 1638."

	£.	s.	d.
1661. Collected for the Protestants in Lithuania	0	6	9
1671. Collected towards the redemption of Turkish slaves	9	13	0
1674. Collected for the relief of the poor of Halesworth, when visited with the small-pox	10	7	9

Before the Reformation there was a guild of St. Margaret here.

VICARS OF DARSHAM.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert de Banham	1311	Prior and Convent of Thetford.
William Rykedoun	1330	Iid.
William Sucling	1349	Maria, Countess of Norf. ex concess. Dni. R.
John le Spencer, de Cretingham	1351	Prior and Convent of Thetford.
Nicholas Awnsel	1361	Iid.
William Auncell	1364	Iid.
Galfridus Hauke	1395	Iid.
Alexander de West Walton	1399	Iid.
John Cokysson		
William Colby	1409	Iid.
William Marshall	1432	Iid.
John Brompton	1432	Iid.
Michael Gosse	1455	Iid.
Jac. Fowlyss		
Roger Warner	1474	Iid.
William Wynston	1504	Iid.
William Burnham	1520	Iid.
John Spenser	1532	Iid.
Thomas Torre	1555	Executors of Thos. Duke of Norfolk.
Richard Hall	1564	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk.
Laurence Manwaring, als. Moore	1575	William Dix, and another.
Henry Gray	1581	Edward Hemyng, Esq.
Nicholas Wydly	1583	Id.
John Eachard	1616	Thomas Bedingfeld, Esq.
Samuel Golby		
Thomas Warren	1683	Elizabeth Bedingfeld, widow.
John Edwards	1706	John Rous, Esq.
Benjamin Taylor	1720	Idem.
Robert Buxton	1748	Dame Lydia Rous.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Michael Driver Mease	1775	Sir John Rous, Bart.
William Kett	1789	Id.
William Langstaff Weddall . . .	1832	Earl of Stradbroke.

Prior. Monach. Thetfordiæ habet eccliam in proprios usus. Estimatio rectoriæ præter portionem xv marc. Estimatio vicariæ ejusdem vi marc, ds̄. Portio prioris S. Fidis de Horsham, in eadem xxxs. Synodalia per ann. ii^d. Denarii S. Petri viij^d.

Charities.—Some cottages with a small piece of land in this parish, and a cottage with about half an acre of land in Theberton, produce a rental of about £ 30 per annum, which is applied towards the reparation of the church, and the support of a Sunday school. It does not appear how the property was acquired.

The total amount of acres in this parish, according to the commutation map, which, however, was not made from a new survey, but patched up for the purpose from old admeasurements, is 1550 acres, 1 rood, 25 perches. The gross amount of impropriate tithes is £ 86. Nearly the whole parish is the property of the Earl of Stradbroke, who, on the commutation of tithes, made all his property free of the great tithes, he being lay rector. The sum of £ 86 is paid to him by the other proprietors in the parish. The gross amount of vicarial tithes is £ 85, and there is a small quantity of glebe land in addition, a part of which is in Darsham, and a part in Norfolk; the latter being a purchase made with Queen Anne's Bounty.

Population in 1746,—236 souls; in 1801,—304; and in 1841,—528.

Dunwich.

DUNWICH is so enveloped in the halo of traditionary splendour, that he who ventures to elucidate its history by pursuing the path of topographical inquiry, must exercise unusual caution, lest he be misled by imaginary light. The steady ray which truth might have shed over its earliest origin is almost wholly extinguished by the violent assaults of the ocean; for, unlike those ruined cities whose fragments attest their former grandeur, Dunwich is wasted, desolate and void. Its palaces and temples are no more, and its very environs present an aspect lonely, stern, and wild,—assimilating well with the wreck of its former prosperity.

It is certain that our eastern shores have been continuously undergoing changes and diminution from the remotest period; and that head-lands have disappeared before the

encroachments of the sea, while tidal valleys have become firm and fertile lands. Hence the name of this place, coupled with such facts, leads to the conclusion that Dunwich, in the days of its aboriginal inhabitants, was a comparatively inland town, seated on an eminence, and washed by the waters of a winding stream. The tradition, therefore, of its forest called Eastwood, which stretched several miles between the town and the ocean, appears a relation not unreasonable in itself, and substantiated, in great measure, by the fact, that about a century ago the impetuosity of the sea laid bare the roots of trees, seemingly the extremity of some dense wood,—in all probability the remains of this forest.¹

It cannot now be determined whether the site of ancient Dunwich formed a town of the Britons, but evidences of Roman occupancy are incontrovertible. Though the ocean has swept away those gigantic works which invariably mark the toil and perseverance of our earliest subjugators, yet the labours of agriculture have turned up a variety of implements of domestic use, and not a few specimens of coinage, in a very perfect condition, which concur in showing the spot to have been a permanent Roman settlement,—the basis of the subsequent Saxon Dommoc-ceaster.² But other proofs are adduceable. A Roman road has been distinctly traced, leading from the heaths which surround this place, quite across the county to Bury St. Edmund's, assuredly a station of importance, if not actually the Villa Faustini. This line of communication, and which might have been first a track-way of the Iceni, has never been lost sight of in ancient records. During the period of the Saxon occupancy of Dunwich, it was used by the monarch who planted Christianity there, and was recognized long afterwards as the king's road, and the king's highway.³ In a grant of certain lands in Bramfield by the master of Mettingham College, they are said to abut "*super regiam viam ducentem a Donewico usque Bury St. Edmundi.*"⁴ This route is again noticed in a deed of manumission of some copyhold lands belonging to the manor of Ufford's Hall, in Fressingfield, held of the Abbot of Sibton, by William and Nicholas Thurston, in the year 1534,⁵ and it is still known through a part of its course as "Dunwich Lane." A road, constructed by the Romans, appears to have run in a direct line from Dunwich to the "Ad Ansam," through Burgh, by Woodbridge; traces of which appear in the modern names of Stratford, a village near Saxmundham, and Rackford bridge, in the parish of Fordley; the latter being an evident corruption of the track-way ford, which preceded the building of a bridge over the little stream which intersects the valley there. To the arguments derived from this concurrence of roads, may be added the existence of a large artificial mound,

¹ Gardner, p. 38.

⁴ Idem.

² Gents. Mag.

⁵ Carta orig. pen. D. E. Davy, Arm.

³ Gardner, p. 38.

or tumulus, which crowns the high lands to the south of the town, in the gardens of Mr. Barne. This barrow, which is of considerable magnitude, and possibly covers the remains of some illustrious chieftain, may be supposed to have been also used by the Romans for exploratory purposes. To identify, however, the site of Roman Dunwich with the name of any station recorded in Anglo-Roman history, from these general evidences of occupancy, would be a difficult, if not an impossible task; for in no part of England do we find the localities of Roman towns and encampments less satisfactorily fixed than in Suffolk. Theories must remain theories still, open to the fullest discussion; and in Dunwich the fury of the ocean has removed nearly every considerable remain. If the writer's opinion, expressed in the Introduction to this work,⁶ be correctly formed, the route pursued in the ninth Iter of Antoninus passed through the centre of the modern county of Suffolk, leaving Dunwich far to the eastward of the great military way, which led from London to the Venta Icenorum. This place could not, therefore, have been the Sitomagus, as argued by some,—a station of the first importance, which Camden supposes to have been at Thetford, and others agree in fixing at Woolpit. Mr. Davy—a modern authority of no little weight in matters connected with East Anglian topography—is of opinion that the Sitomagus was certainly here, and considers the distances, marked in the ninth Iter as intervening between Venta, Sitomagus, and Cambretonium, to coincide perfectly with the actual admeasurements from Caistor by Norwich to Dunwich, and thence to Burgh by Woodbridge. This would, I think, place the Sitomagus too far from the Venta Icenorum, and has the further objection that its adoption would leave the heart of the province untraversed by its principal military way, and remove its most important fortresses to the confines of the coast. It is probable that no certain evidence, arising from the vestiges of altars or inscriptions, will now be discovered to determine these questions to universal satisfaction.

Of the condition of Dunwich during the Saxon era—the period of its highest dignity and importance, though not of its commercial prosperity and wealth—less meagre and imperfect records have descended to us. But to relate the petty warfare and the scenes of desolation which followed the abdication of Britain by the Romans, would be to enter upon general rather than local history: we may conjecture that Dunwich, then called Dunwyk, and Dommoc-ceaster, retained the advantages of its port, and in some measure remained a tenable military station. Hence, in the early part of the seventh century, when Sigebert was called from the Continent to ascend the throne of East Anglia, it was selected as the seat of his temporal government, and the nursery of that ecclesiastical establishment whence the spiritual benefits of

⁶ Vol. i. p. xix.

Christianity were first dispensed to his pagan subjects.⁷ The historians of the time relate that a palace was raised by the monarch for his residence, and a church, or churches, founded by Fœlix, on whom the episcopal dignity was conferred. We must not, however, suffer ourselves to be carried away by the imaginary splendour of these edifices, which could have been but the imperfect fabrics of the early Saxons,—most probably constructed of timber, or, if of more durable materials, selected, doubtless, from the ruins of the Roman works. The exact period whence we are to date the commencement of Fœlix's episcopal office at Dunwich is involved in some little uncertainty. Bede, in his Ecclesiastical History, places it at the year 630; but the Saxon Chronicle, and some other authorities, refer it to 635, or the year following; and as Fœlix received his consecration from Honorius, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was not himself elevated from Lincoln to the metropolitan dignity before the year 643, the latter date seems the more entitled to credit. To reconcile these discrepancies we may suppose that Fœlix, who was a Burgundian priest brought over by Sigebert, preached the doctrines of Christianity to the inhabitants of Dunwich on his first arrival in 630, but that he was not raised to the episcopal office till a few years later, when the truths and the blessings he was promulgating were extending themselves by his activity through a wider circuit. The reign of Sigebert may be said to have terminated about three years after its commencement, when he deserted the good of his subjects, and buried himself in monastic seclusion at Bedericksworth, whence he was drawn by his army to perish in battle against Penda, about 642.⁸

The short period of Sigebert's rule was not, however, an inactive or useless government. He is proved to have laboured zealously for the promotion of the spiritual and temporal welfare of his subjects.⁹ Charmed with the progress of literature which he had witnessed abroad, he founded a school in his dominions after the model of those he had seen in France, in which the rudiments of grammar and the sciences were taught by learned men whom he had invited from that country.¹⁰ An ingenious writer has endeavoured to prove,¹¹ and with much appearance of probability, that this infant establishment was fixed at Dunwich, and formed the germ whence the University of Cambridge afterwards sprouted. Certain, however, it is, that to Sigebert and Fœlix, the honour of giving a permanent establishment to Christianity in East Anglia is due. By their zeal and liberality, churches were built, and monasteries endowed,—that at Bedericksworth, since called Bury St. Edmund's, rearing in after days its towers amidst the proudest and wealthiest in the land. Fœlix continued to preside over his diocese till the day of his death, which took place on the 8th of March, 647.¹² Leland

⁷ Bede.⁸ Bede, &c.⁹ William of Malmesbury.¹⁰ Bede.¹¹ Smith's Notes on Bede's Eccl. History.¹² Godwinus.

contends that he was buried at Dunwich, but if he be correct, the prelate was exhumed, and his remains removed to Soham, where he had founded an abbey. But here they were destined to a short repose, being again removed in the reign of King Canute, and conveyed to the abbey of Ramsey. In this church the ashes of our prelate were enshrined with splendour, and his name canonized as the first saint of the eastern part of England. Foelix was succeeded in his bishopric at Dunwich by Thomas, who is called his Deacon,¹³ and was followed in the episcopal chair by Boniface, and Bisus, whose name is not infrequently written Bosa, and who was consecrated in 669. Bede informs us that when this prelate was oppressed by old age and infirmities, he divided his diocese into two parts; retaining that of Dunwich, which was to embrace Suffolk, and fixing the other see at North Elmham, in Norfolk, which was to extend over that county. Eleven prelates presided over the bishopric of Dunwich in succession.

1. Acca, or Etta.
2. Astwolph.
3. Eadferth, consecrated in 734.
4. Cuthwin.
5. Alberth.
6. Eglaf.

7. Heardred.
8. Alsin, or Ælfun, buried at Dunwich.
9. Tidferth.
10. Weremund.
11. Wybred.

In the person of the last-named prelate, the bishoprics of Dunwich and North Elmham were re-united, about the year 870. Hence Dunwich sunk from its episcopal rank, from which it has emerged only to that of a rural deanery, under the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Suffolk. Though the seat of the bishopric was thus removed from Suffolk, it continued to enjoy some shadow of the episcopal dignity for several centuries. Thus Theodored the second, surnamed the Good, who died about the year 963, bequeaths ten pounds to be distributed among the poor of "mi Bishopericke at Hoxne," of which place it is returned in Domesday Book "in h. man. e. ecclia sedes Episcopatus de Sudfolk, tempore regis Edwardi."¹⁴ The Bishops of Norwich also retained an episcopal mansion at South Elmham, till compelled to resign it to Henry VIII. for property of inferior value.

Though Dunwich was thus pre-eminent during the middle period of the Saxon era, in rank and dignity, it was nevertheless in a declining state in the time of Edward the Confessor. Its regal palace and episcopal seat were gone—the sea had already made an encroachment on its territorial extent, and wasted an entire carucate of land.¹⁵ The manor had fallen into private hands, and formed a portion only of the vast estates of Edric of Laxfield.¹⁶ It was, however, a burgh, and possessed 120 burgesses; but what is very remarkable, considering it to have been so long the seat of a bishopric, it con-

¹³ Godwinus.

¹⁴ Domesday.

¹⁵ Idem.

¹⁶ Idem.

tained only one church. This edifice is supposed, with great reason, to have been founded by Fœlix, and was dedicated under that name. The whole town paid a rent to the Crown of ten pounds. A very important change had, however, taken place in the short interval which elapsed between the reign of the Confessor and the Conqueror's survey. At the latter period, its burgesses amounted to 236, of whom 80 were attached to the manor of Alneterne, belonging to the Abbot of Ely. There were 178 poor persons in the town—*pauperes homines*; the churches were three in number, and the customary rent amounted to £ 50, and 60,000 herrings by gift. We may conclude that this improved condition of Dunwich resulted from the influence of Robert Malet, the Norman Baron, on whom the place was bestowed by the Conqueror. The following by-law was at this time in force in the town. "The King hath, in Dunwich, this custom, that two or three of the Dunwich men shall attend the Hundred court, if they be duly summoned; and if they be so summoned, and fail to attend, they shall forfeit two oras.¹⁷ And if a thief be taken, he shall be tried there, but his punishment shall be inflicted at Blythborough, though his money or personal property shall belong by forfeiture to the lord of Dunwich."¹⁸

This seems to mark an extraordinary absence of privilege on the part of Dunwich, considering its municipal importance, which is further exhibited by the concluding sentence in the same record. "In Edward the Confessor's time, there was no money exchanger, or banker, at Dunwich, but there was one at Blythborough."¹⁹ A fair estimate of the real condition of Dunwich at this period will be gathered by contrasting its Domesday returns with those of other towns in Suffolk, made in the same record. The retainers of the Abbot of Bury, in the Confessor's reign, exclusive of the monks themselves, were 310. In Ipswich the burgesses at the same period amounted to 538, and there were ten churches. Sudbury, in the Confessor's days, had 118 burgesses, a richly endowed church, and a mint,—which latter privilege was never conferred on Dunwich, notwithstanding the assertions of Gardner and others to that effect. Had this place at any time possessed a mint, it would have been during the Saxon era, when kings and bishops resided in it. But no numismatist of the present day ever saw or heard of a Saxon coin stamped at Dunwich. Arched coins of Henry VI. are mentioned by Leak as minted at Dunwich; but he is clearly in error; and what he reads as "*Cite de Denwyk*," should have been "*Everwyk*," or York; while the coin engraved by Gardner is evidently a blundered penny of Edward IV., struck at Durham.

Robert Malet being deprived of his estates, and banished the kingdom, Dunwich fell

¹⁷ The ora was a computation of money in the Saxon era, used for the ounce, or twelfth part of the nummular pound.

¹⁸ Domesday, p. 312.

¹⁹ *Idem*.

to the Crown, and became royal demesne. A blank presents itself in its history, till the reign of Henry II., when it emerges in the height of its prosperity and opulence, being described by an ancient chronicler²⁰ as a town of good note, abounding with much riches, and sundry kinds of merchandize. Its fee-farm rent to the Crown was now raised to £120. 13s. 4d. per annum, and 24,000 herrings; while its comparative wealth is apparent from the fact that it paid £133. 6s. 8d. as an aid, on the marriage of Maud, King Henry's daughter; when Ipswich was charged only £53. 6s. 8d. This rapid stride in commercial prosperity was the result of the free communication with the provinces of France, consequent on the Norman conquest; the frequent expeditions of William and his successors to the Continent producing a brisk and steady trade, and compelling them to give that attention to maritime affairs, which contributed to the constant increase of shipping and seamen.

At the commencement of the unnatural war waged by Prince Henry and his brother, against their father, King Henry II., the mercenary troops, commanded by the Earl of Leicester, appeared off the Suffolk coast, and are supposed to have made an unsuccessful attempt to disembark at Dunwich, before they effected their landing at Walton, in 1173.²¹ Having marched from the latter place through the centre of the province, reducing every stronghold which opposed their course, these marauders invested Dunwich on the west, where they cast up intrenchments, which were visible when Gardner wrote his history of this place.

A manuscript in the British Museum, entitled "A description of the towne of Dunwich," and dated August, 1590, states that "Robert, Earl of Leister, which took pte with Henry, the sonne of King Henry the Second, came to the said towne of Donwich, to have taken it against the King. But when he came neere, and beheld the strength thereof, it was terror and feare unto him to behold it; and soe retyred both he and his people."

Dunwich was certainly strongly fortified at this period, and capable of offering a vigorous resistance, as is proved by a document which I shall quote at full length at a subsequent page. It is represented therein as encompassed by a deep ditch encircling a huge rampart of earth, crowned with a high and strong palisade of timber. Its approaches were through gate-houses "howsed over, and strongly gated," so that "the towne was of grete forse, and strong enowghe to keep out a greate number of people." A part of this rampart and ditch still encloses the ruins of the town; commencing at the very brow of the cliff on the south, and sweeping with a gentle curve by the west, towards the bed of the ancient river. These defences remained perfect till the reign of Edward I., when a portion was thrown down to enable the Grey Friars to extend the

²⁰ William of Newbury.

²¹ Blomefield.

area of their conventual grounds,—a proceeding which the lawless and unsettled state of the times renders altogether unaccountable.

Stow says, that “the oldest of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood report that Dunwich, in ancient time, was a city surrounded by a stone wall and brazen gates.” In the manuscript last quoted there is no allusion to a stone wall or to brazen gates, which we may fairly conclude to be one of the traditionary fictions connected with this place.

In the reign of Richard I., Dunwich was fined 1060 marks, Orford, 15 marks, Ipswich, 200 marks, and Yarmouth the same sum, for the illicit practice of supplying the Flemings with corn.²² The inequality of this fine is adduced as a proof of the relative state of commerce in these ports,—may it not have been commensurate with the extent of the offence. During the memorable struggle of the Barons with King John, for the enforcement of Magna Charta, Dunwich appears firmly attached to the interests of that monarch, and fitted out several ships to augment his power. The adoption of these measures led to reprisals on the part of the King’s opponents, for “the Barons, with the French, made great havock in Suffolk, extorting from Dunwich, to avoid a direption, large sums of money.”²³ The adherence of the townsmen of Dunwich to the King seems the result of immunities and privileges obtained from John, who in the first year of his reign created the town a free borough, with soc and sac; exempting it from certain tolls and customs, and among the rest, wreck and lagan.²⁴ This is doubtless the charter for which the burgesses paid 200 marks, and 5000 eels. It should be remarked, however, that it *exempts* them only from wreck and lagan throughout the realm, instead of *granting* them the same, as Gardner has incorrectly stated.²⁵ In the seventh of his reign, this King remitted the burgesses £40 rent of their fee-farm, and in the tenth and seventeenth years, confirmed his first charter, vesting the government of the town in a mayor and four bailiffs, or sheriffs, in place of the portreves who had hitherto exercised the municipal authority. For these favours, the town appears to have given John, in addition to their former payments, 300 marks in money, with ten falcons, and five girfalcons. The government of Dunwich by mayors and bailiffs commenced in 1216, and continued for 130 years, terminating in 1346, the twentieth of Edward III. Gardner has given a long list of these corporate dignitaries, the first mayor of whom was John de Valence, and the last, Augustine Fitz-William. The town has been subsequently governed by two bailiffs, who act as chief magistrates, assisted by a recorder and other officers.

²² Gardner, p. 7.

²³ Holinshed.

²⁴ Goods lying at the bottom of the sea, lost by shipwreck, which by the ancient laws belonged to the Lord Admiral.

²⁵ Page 35.

King Henry III., by charters of the fourteenth and fortieth of his reign, confirmed the grants of his father, John. This monarch made a further abatement of £ 20 per annum in the fee-farm rent of the town, and gave them £ 47. 10s. "to remove and repair their port, which then ran through the grounds of William Helmet, who exacted for every ship passing there four-pence, and as much for anchorage, without license from the King."²⁶ From this period we may date the commencement of that decline in the commercial prosperity of Dunwich, brought about by the assaults of the sea, which has gradually reduced it from a populous and flourishing port to a mean and impoverished village. The town, however, still furnished forty ships for the King's use, when required, as is shown by the following record:

In undecimo Hen. III. Tallagium de villâ de Dunwich ponitur in respect. ad presens. Ita qd. inveniunt 40 naves ad custum. suum ad transportationem regis.²⁷

This monarch also allowed them fifteen pounds for services performed for his father.

"Baronibus, pro hominibus de Donewico, rex eisdem, quod allocent eisdem hominibus in debito quo regi debent £15, pro servicio suo nuper regi facto, in mittendo partes Daciæ, et de residuo debitorum illorum facient eis habere respectum usque ad Scaccarium, Paschæ anno 15, breve est in Forulo Mareschalli: et mandatum est Vicomiti Norfolciæ. Hil. Comm. 25 Hen. III. Rot. 4 b."²⁸

In the reign of Edward I., Dunwich "maintained, besides eleven ships of war, sixteen fair ships, twenty barks or vessels trading to the North Seas, Iceland, &c., and twenty-four small boats for the home fishery."²⁹ Edward remitted to the men of Dunwich two hundred pounds which his father had lent them, and confirmed their former privileges by two charters, granted in the seventh and thirteenth years of his reign. They paid, however, an increased fee-farm rent of £ 65 per annum, which appears to have been indifferently discharged, as many of the bailiffs of the town were summoned to appear before the Barons of the Exchequer to answer for rents detained by them.³⁰ Similar defalcations seem to have occurred in the fifty-second of the preceding reign, when the King seized the town into his own hands, because the bailiffs did not appear to answer for their farm and other debts.³¹ Notwithstanding its declining state, Dunwich advanced £ 47. 10s. towards the portion of £ 6000, settled on Isabel, daughter of the King of France, at her marriage with Prince Edward, when Ipswich paid but forty pounds. In the twenty-fourth of this reign, "the men of Dunwich, at their own proper costs and charges, built, for the defence of the realm, eleven ships of war, well furnished with munition; most of them carrying seventy-two

²⁶ Gardner, p. 40.

²⁹ Idem, p. 9.

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²⁷ Lansdowne MSS.

³⁰ Idem, p. 23, note.

²⁸ Gardner, p. 8.

³¹ Idem, p. 36.

men each; the rest fifty, forty-five, and forty, apiece. These sailed from the port of Plymouth with the king's brother, Edmund, Earl of Leicester and Lancaster, and other true loyal subjects, for France; and remained on the coast of Gascony from St. Andrew's day unto the feast of Pentecost following, during which time they served the King without pay, and had four ships, with their artillery, &c., valued at £ 200, taken and destroyed by the enemy."³²

By Edward II., no charter or privilege was granted to Dunwich, but he issued a mandate to John Howard, Sheriff of Suffolk, prohibiting the sale of all goods, merchandize and fish, imported at the *new port*, except at the ancient market-places at Dunwich, on forfeiture of the goods and merchandize so vended. This proclamation, which is printed below, was granted to retrieve the loss, sustained by the town, in consequence of the old port having been obstructed by the sea, and a new one opened within the limits of Blythborough, two miles nearer to Southwold; which increased the business of those places to the detriment of the trade at Dunwich.

"De consuetudinibus, et quod in portu Donwici, naves ac battallæ sine Burgensium licentiâ villæ finitimæ habere nequeant.

"John Howard, Vicec. Suff., &c. Edwardus, &c., licet nuper intelligentes quod quam plures mercatores cum navibus suis piscibus, et aliis merchandisiis venalibus carcatis in portu nostro de Donewico applicantes habentes, habuerunt pisces, et merchandisas ibidem venditione exponere renuebant; se ex inde cum piscibus aliis, et merchandisiis suis ad diversa loca in partibus illis ubi mercatorium, seu feria non existit, frequenter transferentes, &c., per quod tolnetum, et aliæ consuetudines inde debitæ nobis substrahebantur, in nostri contemptionis deteriorationem villæ nostræ predictæ manifestam. Tibi præcepimus, &c., quod in predictâ villâ nostrâ de Donwico, et aliis locis, ubi necesse foret in ballivâ tuâ publice proclamari facere; ut quis bona, seu mercimonia venalia quæ in portu prædicto applicare contigeret, et ad aliqua loca alia ubi mercatorium aut feria in partibus aliis non existit vendenda, per quod theolonium, et aliæ consuetudines inde debitæ nobis substraherentur, sub foris facto bonorum et mercimoniorum eorum, quia tamen per quendam finem in curiâ Domini Henrici, quondam regis Angliæ, avi nostri, inter Margeriam de Cressi, querentem, &c., et burgenses de Dunwico, defordantes, &c., de assensu ipsius, aut nostri Senatus Angliæ, sui, et apparet quod dicti burgenses concesserunt in ipsâ curiâ, &c., quod homines predictæ Margeriæ, &c., de Blithborough et Walberswick haberent tot naves mercatorias et piscatorias, quot habere vellent; reddendo de quilibet nave, ut patet super, viz. 5s.

"De quadam allocutione facienda hominibus de Donewyco.

"Dominus Rex mandavit hoc breve suum de magno sigillo suo, quod est inter communia de hoc anno primo, in hæc verba. Edwardus Dei gratia Rex Angliæ, Dominus Hiberniæ, et Dux Aquitaniæ, Thesaurario et Baronibus suis de Scaccario salutem. Monstraverunt nobis, homines nostri de Donewyco, per petitionem suam coram nobis, et consilio nostro in Parlamento nostro, exhibitam, quod cum ipsi, anno regni Domini E., quondam Regis Angliæ, avi nostri, vicesimo quarto, fuissent in guerra dicti avi nostri in partibus Vasconiae cum undecim navibus suis, et ibidem ad sumptus suos proprios per magnum tempus in servitio dicti avi nostri moram fecissent; et quatuor naves de prædictis undecim navibus, ac bona, ac catalla in eisdem quatuor navibus existentia in eodem servitio ibidem amisissent, et post modum iidem

³² Gardner, from Holinshed.

homines præfato avo nostro, per eorum petitionem supplicassent, quod ipse, habito respectu admisas et sumptus suos prædictos; eis easdem misas et sumptus; una cum dampnis, quæ in præmissis sustinerunt faceret allocari, dictusque avus noster tunc thesaurario et baronibus suis de Scaccario virtute petitionis prædictæ, mandasset, quod vocato coram eis Johannæ de Botetourt, tunc Admirallo Flotæ Navium prædicti avi nostri in partibus prædictis, eisdem hominibus aliqua debita sua quæ præfato avo nostro tunc debuerunt, juxta discretionem eorundem thesaurarii et baronum, et secundum certificationem ejusdem Johannis, eis in hac parte factam remitterent, et aliqua debita, eisdem hominibus atterminarent: et licet idem Johannes coram præfatis thesaurario et baronibus personaliter constitutus testificatus fuerit coram eisdem, quod misæ sumptus, et dampna prædictorum hominum in hac parte, ad mille quadringentas et viginti libras, et decem solidos per rationabilem compotum attigerunt; prout in memorandis dicti Scaccarii plenius dicitur contineri.

“Quæ quidem petitio indorsatur sic. Soit maunde a thesorier, et Barons del' Eschequer qe veue ceste petition, et serchiz les roules del' Eschequer, si trove soitque les custages et les partes les hommes avant ditz amountenta £1420. 10s., come est continuz en mesme la petition, qe eux eauntz regard al estat de la ville avant dite, et les hommes de mesme la ville les dettes qe mesmes les Gentz deivent al Eschequer soient allowez en la somme avant dite, et si rien demoert outre, de ceo soit fait compensacion, ou en autre manere solunc ceo qil verront qe serra affaire alur descrecions. Et habita deliberatione super præmissis, scrutatisque rotulis, et memorandis hujus Scaccarii super contentes in petitione et mandato prædictis, compertum est, per certificationem dicti, Johannis irrotulatam in memorandis, anni 14 Regis E. Patris hujus Regis, in recorda de termino Sancti Michaelis; quod homines de Donewyco fuerunt in servitio Domini Regis E. avi Regis nunc, anno regni sui, 24 cum undecim navibus bene munitis et præparatis, pro transfretatione fratris prædicti Domini Regis E., et aliorum ejusdem Domini Regis fidelium, a portu de Plommuth versus partes Vasconia: et in partibus Vasconia: commorantium a Festo Sancti Andreæ Apostoli, eodem anno 24; usque Festum Pentecostis proximo sequent. infra quod tempus, prædicti homines de Donewyco fuerunt ibidem absque vadiis a Domino Rege capiendis, ad costus suos proprios per tres decim septimanas et amplius, infra quod tempus iidem homines amiserunt de prædictis undecim navibus, quatuor naves cum toto attilio earundem navium præti £200. Et quod vadiæ marinariorum dictarum undecim navium, quorum marinariorum nomina, et vadia annotantur plenius in memorandis prædictis, attingunt per tempus prædictum ad £1220. 10s. per certificationem prædictam, unde summa totalis est £1420. 10s. Et prætextu brevis petitionis, et scrutinii prædictorum consideratum est, quod debita quæ iidem homines Regi debent, hic allocentur eisdem hominibus in partem solutionis et satisfactionis summæ prædictæ. Et quod residuum dictarum £1420. 10s. allocetur eisdem hominibus in debitis quæ Regi debebunt; hic ex nunc tam de firma villæ suæ, quam ex aliis causis quibuscunque prætextu mandati Regis supradicti.”

In the first year of King Edward III., the old port of Dunwich was rendered utterly useless by the violence of the sea; and on the 14th of January, 1328, was so choked up by the north-east winds, that all means used for its recovery proved ineffectual.³³ In this year, the third of his reign, the King gave the men of Dunwich a charter, confirming all his predecessors' grants; but nothing could maintain the prosperity of the place, which now rapidly declined. Notwithstanding, in 1347, the town sent six ships, with one hundred and two mariners, to assist the King in

³³ Gardner, p. 40.

his expedition against Calais.³⁴ About this time a great part of the town, and upwards of four hundred houses, which paid rent to the fee-farm, with divers shops and wind-mills, were devoured by the sea;³⁵ in consequence of which disaster the Crown was pleased to reduce the fee-farm rent to £14. 10s. 9d. An inquisition, taken in the twenty-eighth of this reign, describes the ruined state of the port and commerce of Dunwich, in these terms: "Quod a tempore quo non extat memoria, ad 14 diem Jan. anno regni Domini regis, Edwardi nunc, primo, erat quidam portus, contiguus villæ Donw. largus et profundus, &c., qui quidem portus, ann. et die præd. per impetu maris, omnino est obstructus; et alius portus tunc temporis factus; qui quidem portus distat a villa præd. fere per duas leucas, et est nimis strictus et non profundus; et in illo portu est, et fuit, rara et parva applicatio navium, &c." ³⁶

During the wars with France, in which, as we have seen, Dunwich still bore a share, the greater part of their ships were lost, with the lives of five hundred of the seamen, and stores to the amount of one thousand pounds. In 1358, therefore, the townsmen besought the assistance of the King in this necessity.

"In anno 33 Ed. III. Homines de Dunwick petunt gratia regis de amissione decem navium in servitio regis, guerris suis, cum catallis et hominibus in disd. navibus existentibus, usq: ad sum. £1000."

By a petition of the burgesses of Dunwich, King Richard II., to redress their grievances, commanded the Sheriff of Suffolk to signify by proclamation, when requisite, to all people, of what condition soever they were, to pay customs, dues, and tolls for every ship, vessel, or boat, carrying any goods, merchandize, or fish, into the port; and not to exhibit them to sale at any other place, than where they were wont formerly to be sold; on the forfeiture of ships, vessels, and boats, and corporal imprisonment at the King's pleasure. And the Sheriff, in default of the due execution of the trust, incurred the penalty of forty pounds.³⁷

"Richardus Dei gratia, &c., monstraverunt nobis burgenses nostri de Dunwyco per petitionem suam nobis et concilio nostro exhibitam graviter, conquerentes, quod cum ipsi teneant villam prædictam de nobis ad feodi firmam, &c., et percipere consueverunt in auxilium firmæ suæ prædictæ certas custumas, et consuetudines de hominibus villarum de Blithborough, Southwold, et Walberswick, cum navibus, vasis, et battellis suis, ad portum dictum, villæ de Dunwyco, cum piscibus, et aliis merchandis suis carcatis venientibus; et in eodem applicantibus; et licet portus prædictus, filum et cursus aquæ versus mare interdictas villas de Donwico, et Southwold decurrent; per tempestatem maritimam in diversis locis frequenter mutaverit: iidem tamen burgenses nostri quo minus custumas, et consuetudines prædictas habere, et percipere valerent ut solebant, et deberent per eosdem homines; eâ de causâ impediti existunt minus juste in ipsorum burgensium nostrorum damnum, et depauperationem, et solutionis firmæ nostræ prædictæ retardationem manifestam: unde nobis supplicaverunt sibi per nos providere. Nos volentes eisdem burgensibus nostris, ut ipsi nobis de firma prædicta commodius, et celerius satisfacere possint

³⁴ Gardner, p. 12.

³⁵ Idem, p. 94.

³⁶ Idem, p. 40.

³⁷ Idem, p. 12.

gratiose subvenire tibi precipimus, districtius quo possumus, injungentes quod in pleno comitatu tuo, et in singulis locis villarum prædictarum, ac alibi in ballivâ tuâ, tam infra libertates quam extra, ubi necesse fuerit, et quoties per ipsos burgenses nostros, ex parte nostrâ fuerit requisitus, publice proclamari facias ne quis dictarum villarum cujuscunque status, seu conditionis fuerit, cum navibus, vasis, et battellis suis, cum piscibus, et aliis merchandis carcat, ad portum prædictum; de cætero veniat licet portus ille, filum et cursus aquæ interdictas, villas de Dunwico, et Southwold, decurrent per tempestatem maritimam, in diversis locis frequenter, ut præmittetur, mutaverit sub foris facto navium, vasorum, et battellorum; et sub pœna in prisonamenti corporum suorum ad voluntatem nostram; ipsos burgenses nostros ad levandum et percipiendum custumas et consuetudines prædictas, quas habere debent; ipsique, et antecessores sui burgenses, villæ prædictæ a tempore prædicto habere, et percipere consueverunt, impediat seu perturbet quovis modo. Et in super eisdem burgensibus nostris de cætero quatenus de jure poteris: de tempore in tempus intendens, sis consulens, favens, et auxilians prout decet. Et hoc sub pœna quadraginta librarum nullatenus omittas."—Ex Inquisit. Sub. Sig. D. R.

In addition to the church of St. Fœlix, with a cell of monks, which had long been lost, the churches of St. Leonard, St. Martin, and St. Nicholas, were now overthrown by the sea; and in the eighth of this King's reign, 1385, the shore was washed away, close to the convent of Black Friars.³⁸ In the ninth of Henry IV., the ninth of Henry V., and in the second of Henry VI., charters of confirmation were again issued to the town.

By the latter monarch the fee-farm rent was reduced to £ 12. 2s. 1d., with 3s. 4d. increment per annum, in consequence of the encroachments of Sir Roger Swillington, of Blythborough, who exacted customs and tolls for merchandize and fish brought into the new port of Dunwich. An inquisition was also issued, directing Peter Bowen, escheator of Suffolk, to make inquiry of these matters concerning the port.

Henric. Dei gratia Rex Angliæ et Franciæ, et Dominus Hiberniæ, dilecto nobis Petro Bowen, nuper eschatori in comitatu Suffolciæ, salutem. Cum per quandam inquisitionem coram te et aliis, pretextu commissionis nostræ, tibi et eis directæ, captam, et in cancellariâ nostrâ retornatam, sit compertum; quod Robertus Swillington, Chival. et Rogerus, filius ejusdem Roberti, portum de Dunwic clamando, illum tanquam suum proprium; et capiendo custumas, ancoragium, feriagium, et tolnetum de pedders, pisces ementibus ibidem, quæ sunt parcellæ firmæ villæ predictæ; necnon et wreckum maris eveniens inter quendam locum vocatum le Ould-Haven, usque villam de Southwold, qui quidem locus est infra metas, et bundas dictæ villæ Dunwic, et ad eandem villam pertinens, videlicet. Dictus Robertus Swillington, a festo S. Michaelis, &c., absque juris titulo usurpavit, et inrochiavit: quoque prefati Robertus et Rogerus quendam mariscum, vocatum le Kingsholme, cum pertinentiis suis, quis ad dictam villam est spectans, et pertinens, &c., per tempus predictum occuparunt, &c., indebite et injuste in nostri contempione, et prejudicio burgensium de villâ Donwic ex hereditatione et depauperatione, ac solutionis firmæ suæ predictæ retardatione manifesta; et contra formam chartarum, et concessionum eis, per progenitores, et predecessores nostros, quondam reges Angliæ, inde confect. Et nos, &c., cum prefati burgenses ejusdem villæ, pro quadam feodi firma nobis, et heredibus nostris inde annuatim reddendo, de nobis teneant, quam ipsorum burgens. in hâc parte prospicere volentes, et tenemur tibi præcipimus, &c.³⁹

³⁸ Gardner, p. 94.

³⁹ Idem, p. 15.

Gardner gives a letter, then in his possession, with the autograph signature of Henry VI., addressed to the burgesses of Dunwich on this subject.

Well beloved, we greet you well—and forasmuch as we have been enformed that certayne persons dwelling nygh to your toun of Dunwich, entenden dayly for to hurte yow, and also interrupt yow of your possessions, which of long tyme ye have had, used, and occupied, as well by the graunte of diverse our most noble progenitors, kings of England, as by our letters patents of confirmation to yow renued, and amplified, touching our haven there called Dunwich-Haven, seu the course and streames of the same, extending with all maner, jurisdiction, pety custome, ancorage, mesaurage, preferment of merchandiz, wrecke, groundage, arrests, and distress, pertayning unto the same, as parcell of our fee-ferm, which at our assignment ye yearly paye, and content for the same. Therefore we will, and desire yow, that yow put yow in your devoir, to continue still your saied possession in our saied right, touching the premises, not suffringe any person or persons of what condition he be for to interrupt or let yow in any of the same. And yf ye be not of power so to doe, that ye require our sherife, and other our officers there for to strength yow, to whome we have geven in commandment to assist you therefore. And else that ye complaine unto us at all tymes, and we shall purvey for the redrese in such wise as they shall have cause to beware of any such mysguidinge ageyn us hereafter. Yeven under our signet at our maner of Sheene, the xxi daye of November.

To revive their dying trade, an agreement for an interchange of commercial relations between Dunwich and Hull was confirmed in the thirty-seventh year of this King's reign. Many other places of flourishing business agreed also to encourage a mutual traffic, the compositions for which, under their respective seals, were remaining in the town chest in 1590, but were lost when Gardner compiled his history. All efforts, however, to recover the lost commerce of the town proved ineffectual, in consequence of the vicinity of Southwold and Walberswick to the mouth of the new haven. Upon the breaking out of the civil dissensions between the houses of York and Lancaster, Dunwich, unmindful of the favours granted them by Henry VI., openly declared for the White Rose. Edward IV. accordingly acknowledged their services by the grant of a charter, dated in the sixth year of his reign. This document confirmed to them the privileges conceded in their previous charters, and gives them all manner of wrecks of the sea, wheresoever the like wrecks shall be found, whether within the town liberty and precincts, or upon the land, sea, and water. To have and to hold the same wrecks, and all other things which to the office of Admiral do and shall belong,—to the burgesses, their heirs and successors, with liberty to the bailiffs to hold a Court of Admiralty. This is the first *known* charter granting to the burgesses of Dunwich the privilege of wreck; but it appears that they exercised the franchise in all the preceding reigns; for by an inquisition taken in the twenty-first of Henry III., which is not to be found any where but in the Chartulary of Butley Priory, preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, the burgesses of Dunwich are shown to have wreck of the sea in the town of Dunwich, viz. from the port to the limits of Westleton,

abutting upon the high sea of Cachecliff,—a headland still known by that name.⁴⁰ The defection of Dunwich from the interests of the House of Lancaster is thought by Gardner to have operated as a powerful motive with Henry VII. for incorporating Southwold; but the repeated stoppages of the haven which brought the mouth of the last cut two miles nearer to that town, may in some wise exonerate this monarch from partial or unjust procedure. The suppression of the many religious houses which existed at Dunwich in the time of Henry VIII. combined with the previously existing evils to hasten its decay. Queen Elizabeth, in the first year of her reign, gave the town a charter of confirmation,—“a princely gift,” which, as the poet says, fell “like sunbeams on the blasted blossoms;”⁴¹ for the place was now reduced to less than one-quarter of its original size.⁴² The church of St. John Baptist had been taken down in 1540; several of its chapels, with Gilden Gate and South Gate, were now overthrown by the sea, which, in 1570, inflicted “incredible damage.”⁴³ Her Majesty, in commiseration of this deplorable state of the town, and to alleviate their losses sustained by the ruin of their port, lent the inhabitants a sum of money, which she obtained by the sale of the bells, lead, iron, glass, and stone, of Ingate church, in Beccles, together with the amount of the sale of the lead from the chancel of Kessingland church, excepting so much as would defray the expense of building a gable to the same.

This writinge, made the twenty-fifth day of Aprill, in the twentieth yere of the reigne of our sovereigne Ladye Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England, Fraunce, and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Fayeth, &c. wytnessthe that, whereas by vertue of a warraunte from the Righte Honourable the Lord Burghley, Lord Treasurer of England, and the Righte Honourable Sir Walter Myldemay, Knyghte, Chauncelor of th' Exchequer, to Thomas Badbey, esquier, receivour of the Queen her Majesties revenues, in her highnes countye of Suffolk, dyrected in these wordes followinge, that is to saye, after our hearty commendations. Whereas we are crediblie enformed, that the Queene's Majesties towne of Dunwyche in the countie of Suffolk, is by rage and surgies of the sea, daylie wasted and devoured: and the haven of her highnes said towne, by diverse rages of wyndes continually landed and barred, so as no shippes or boates can either enter in or oughte; to the uttur decaye of the said towne, which heretofore hathe well and fayethfullie served her Majestie, and her noble progenitors, by navigacion in tyme of war, and the comonwelth in time of peace. We have therefore thought good, at the humble suyte and petition of the baylifes and burgesses of the said towne, that where there is certyfyed by commyssyon in her highnes Courts of Exchequere, one decayed church in Suffolk, called Ingate, in her Majesties dysposycion, the belles, lead, yron, glasse, and stone whereof are vallwed at threscore syxtene poundes, eyghtene

⁴⁰ All the charters quoted in the preceding pages are among the records in the Tower of London. The town chest of Dunwich possesses no original charters, nor even transcripts of charters, granted to the burgesses there by the kings of England of any period, or by any earl of the shire, or lord of the city, borough, or town. All the charters which will be hereafter quoted remain in the Rolls Court.

⁴¹ Suckling's 'Brennoralt.'

⁴² Gardner, p. 94.

⁴³ Gardner, from Blomefield.

shillings and fower pence. And wheare also, we are advertized by Mr. Humberston, her Majesties surveyor in that countye, that her highnes chauncell of Kessyngland, in the said countie, is utterly decayed; the ould lead whereof remaynethe in the churche at Kessyngland, and is daylie embeseled, and conveyed by the inhabitants adjoynynge, the certentie and valew whaereof is unknowen. We will and require you that upon the receipt of these our letters, you cause the lead of the said chauncell of Kessyngland, to be valewed, and prysed by indifferent men, and then to make sale to her highnes use; as well of the said decayed churche, as also of the leade of the said chauncell; and the money hereof coming (over and above the charges of buildinge the gable-wall of the chauncell of Kessyngland) you delyver to the hands of the baylyffs and burgesses of her highnes said towne of Dunwytche; takynge of them suffycient bonde for the repayment thereof, when the same shal be required to her highnes use. And so we bydd you farewell. From London, the 2d of Julye, 1575, your lovyng fryndes
W. BURGHLEY, WAL. MYLDMAY.

The said Thomas Badbeye, for the seid sum of £76. 18. 4. of lawfull Englishe money, to the seid Thomas Badbey, by hands of Francis Bohun, Gent., beforehand paid, of the which sum of £76. 18. 4. the said Thomas Badby knowlegyth himself satysfied, contented, and payed; and the seid Frauncis, his heirs and administrators thereof to be acquitted and discharged for ever, by these presents hathe bargayned and sould unto the said Francis Bohun, and his assignes, all that the said decayed churche, called Ingate, in the countie aforesaid: together with the bells, leade, glasse, yron, and stone to be perceyved, and taken by the said Francis Bohun, or his assignes, to his owne use and behoofe, according to the full entent, purporte, and effecte of the warrant aforesaid. In wytness wheareof the said Thomas Badby hereunto hath put his seale, the daye and yere above wrytten. THOMAS BADBY.

Sealed and delivered to Thomas Ocklye, Gent. To the use of Francis Bohun, Esquier, in the presens of me—JOHN LUCAS.

To this document, the original of which was in the possession of Dr. Bohun, in 1735, is appended the receipt of the "Baylyves, Burgesses, and Communaltie" of Dunwich, for the above sum of £76. 18s. 4d., sealed with the common seal of the burgh.

But the exact state and condition of Dunwich at this period will be apparent from a perusal of a very curious and circumstantial manuscript, now in the British Museum,⁴⁴ written in the year 1573. By whom the account was drawn up is not known, no name being appended to it, though it is not improbable that Stow was the author, who himself tells us that the relation of the ancient splendour of Dunwich "excited my curiosity of visiting this place, where I beheld the remains of the rampart, some tokens of Middle-gate; the foundations of down-fallen edifices, and tottering fragments of noble structures, remains of the dead exposed, and naked wells, divested of the ground about them by the waves of the sea; divers coins, several mill-hills, and part of the old key."⁴⁵ The account is dedicated to "Master Deye," who must have been, I think, the John Day, or Deye, who was born in Dunwich in the beginning of the sixteenth century, and is celebrated as the first English printer who employed a Saxon type. His fame is also established by the perfection to which he brought the Greek and Italic characters used

⁴⁴ Harl. MSS. No. 532, fol. 54.

⁴⁵ Chron. p. 73.

in his presses. Day died in 1584, and was buried at Bradley, in Suffolk, where a more extended notice of him will be inserted.

“A Declaration how by reason and conjecture to know what compass, and how much in quantitie the Town of Donwiche hath been of, in old time past, and how much in quantitie it containeth nowe, Anno Dom. 1573, both in length and brede, and also how much the subbarbes of the said town containeth without the Palles Deike, and the King’s river, &c., as here follows:

“First. Touching yower note, Master Deye, that ye sent me, concerning what compass or quantitie the towne of Donwiche hath been of in old time past, ye shall understand that the sd town containeth in quantitie now, two hundred acres within the limits and bounds hereafter following, viz. as the sd town now standeth and lyeth by the Sea Clyffe on the este part, and the palles dyke and Gray friars walle, and so forthe down to the Massendue; and so forthe a long est by the massendue, and so forthe a long by the King’s river, unto the Keye of Donwyche, called the Daine, whereat the shippes lye, on the part of the west, and the one end of the sd town by Hithe upon ye aforesaid Palles dike towards the south, and ye other ende of the Town buttethe upon the sd Keye, called the Daine, and the shynglestone towards the north. And the sd town containeth in length from the north end ryght against the Keye beyond the uttermost howses from thenceforth soo all alonge by the sea clyfe unto the south end of the Palles deiike one mile, after the rate of a thousand passes gemetrically to the myle, viz. 5 foote of the reule to everie pace; and the sd town containeth now in brede from the place called the mydle gattes to the sea’s side one quarter of a myle of the measure aforesaid; and in like case from the bredge gates coming from Seynt James strete, so forthe unto the sea’s side one quarter of a mile by the aforesd measure, &c.: here is dyscribed what lengthe and brede the town of Donwiche is of nowe, and what quantite and number of ground is within the sd limits of the towne. And now shall follow what maye be gathered and conjectured what compass and quantitie the sayd town hath been of in old tyme past, &c. Now ye shall further understand yf the sd town, before it was wasted, consumed, drowned, and taken in with the sea, was bylded in such manner, form, and fashein, as comonlye all other cities and great old townes be, then it maye be thought that the towne of Donwiche was as wyde or as brode, as it is now long, viz. as it is now a myle longe, then it myght be a myle brode, or wyde. Than ye shall consider by this reckoning and means there shall be taken in with the sea, three quarters of a myle as aforesaid; so that by this reckoning there is three parts of the town drowned in the sea, and but the third part of the town now remaining: this is one way that may be considered and gathered for the profe of the same.

“Also further it may be thought, that whereas the aforesd town is now a myle longe, that before the decaye and waste thereof, than it was but three quarters of a myle brode,

then by this reckoning there sholde be but two parts of the town wasted, and the third part now remaining. Now, Syr, by these ways and means, and such other lyke, it must be conjectured, gathered, learned, and sought out, what compass and quantitie the towne of Donwich hath been of, for as much as I can not gather, nor learn, that there is any wrytynge or other record for the better trial and proffe of the same, &c. Wherefore use power, dyscreSSION, in this behalf, &c., for here is all that my symple discretion can conjecture and gather thereof, &c.

“Also ye shall further understand what quantitee, and how much the subbarbes of the town is of, viz. all the other houses, tenements, lands, meadows, fennes, marshes, & all other kynde of grounds whatsoever that now doth belong to the said town, and are within the bounds of Donwiche, and without the aforesaid limits and bounds of the towne, as the same conteyneth by estimacon two thousand acars, and lyeth on the west part of the town, and at the south and north ends of the aforesaid town as followeth, viz. the subbarbes of the sd towne lyethe by the aforesaid palles dike, the king’s river, the sea clyfe, and the shynglestone of the part of the este, and the comon meare between Westleton and Donwiche on the pte of the west, the aforesaid common meare towds the south; and the other end butteth upon Donwich haven, and the rever or chenell dividing Donwich and Walbersewycke, towards the north, &c. All these last aforesaid grounds is the subbarbes of the town, and so all the same is plainly expressed, declared, and wrytten in all the aunchent evidence belonging to the same, &c.

“Also you shall very truly and certainlye understand that there hath been 6 prysh churches in Donwiche, for profe thereof there is aunchent evidence to be sene, as well in the Register of the Bishop of Norwich, as also a great number of old evidences and records now remayninge in the towne of Donwich at all times ready to be seen for the profe thereof, &c. viz. Seynt Lenard’s pryshe now drowned in the sea, Sct Peter’s pryshe now standing, St John’s parish now drowned in the sea, St Marten’s psh, now drowned in the sea, St Nicholles psh, now into the sea, and the paresh of All Seyntes now standing and remaining; among the which prysshes churches, it seemeth and plainly appeareth by the records in the sd register at Norwich, in a certaine old book there that is above 200 years old, that all the said 6 parish churches were apportioned to the Abbie of Eye, in Suffolk, and the portion of Seynt Nicholles was 16 marks, and the porcions of all the other 5 prysshes was but 6 marks a pece, whereby it plainly apereth that St Nicholles pryshe was the greatest psh, and the best benefice of them all, viz. it was almost worth any three of all the rest; the which parish is now in the sea, so that of all the same parish there is not a bove 6 acres of ground now remaining, &c., whereby it plainly appeareth that the sea hath taken in a grete dele of ground agaynst the same parish, &c.

“Also there was in the sd town of Donwiche two Houses of friars, verie fayer

churches and byldings, and in specially the Graye friars, which was a goodlye house, and walled all round about with a stone wall with dyvers fayer gates, as there is yet to be sene: the which graye friars was of the order of Saint Francis, and called the fryars minors, and the black fryars ware of the order of St. Domyricke, and ware called the fryars preachers, &c.

“Also there was in the sd towne an aunchent and verie old church called the Temple, (of our ladie) the which church by report was in the Jews tyme, and was valted over. And the rofe of the same church, and also the tyles ware leadded all over, and it was a church of grete privelage and pardon in those days, and was endewed with dyvers rentes, tenements, houses, londs, and other pfitts and comodities both free and copiee, as well in Donewiche, Westleton, (Dyngle) as also in divers other places, &c. And comonlye there was kept a Court called Dunwiche Temple Court, on the daye of all sowles for the leaving and gathering up of the yearly revenewe of the same.

“Also there is in the sd town two hospytalles, the one is called St James, which church is a grete one, and a large, after the oulde fashen, and divers tents, howses, and londs to the same belongs, to the use of the poor seike, and impotent people there, but now latelie greatly decayed and hendred by evyle masters of the s^d Hospitalls, and other evil disposed parsons which doe sell away divers londs and rents, from the said hospitall, to the grete hynderance of the poore people of the said hospitall, as plainly it is to be proved.

“And the other hospitall was of the Holy Trinity, and was and is called the Massendue, whereof the church is now pulled down and decayed, by the means of such evil masters and covetious persons as decayed the other hospital. But there is yet divers tenemts, houses, lands, and rents remayning to the use of the poor of the same hospital. The which Massendue was an house of grete privilege, and a place exempt, and was a very little proper house, and a proper lodgyn for the masters of the same for the tyme being to dwell in, as ther hath been masters of the same Massendue in tymes past, that hath been Worshiple, viz. one there was of late dayes a Master of Arte, and an other that was an Sqyer, and such like, &c. I wolde to God these injuries and wrongs done to these 2 poor hospitalls myght be restored and reformed again to their former estate, for sewerley whoso ever shall doo it, shall do a good worke before God. I pray God brynge it soo to passe. Amen.

“Also there was in the sd towne of Donwiche three chapelles, whof one was of Seint Anthony, and another of St Francis, and the third was of St Katheringe, the which 3 chapelles ware putt down &c. whan all other howses of religion ware putt down, &c.

“Also ye shall well understand and consider, that of all the afsd 6 churches,

2 Ho^s of fryars, 2 hospitalls and 3 chapelles, there doth now at this present day remayne plain mention of some part of everie one of them, that is there now to be sene and perceived in that little pte of the town that is there yet remaining, which, if as before is said, be but the forte part, or the thyrde pt, &c., then it is to be conjectured and gathered that the other 3 pts, or two pts of the town now drowned in the sea, should have placed in it parish churches and all other like byldinge, &c., as well as that pt of the sd town was and is, that now remaineth, &c. But to sertifie you howe many and what they ware, I can not; therefore, I put the judgment thereof to your discretion, who can judge thereof a grete dele better than I. But you shall further understand the comon fame and report of a greate number of credible persons is, and hath been for a long time paste; that there hath been in the town of Donewiche, before any decay came to it, LXX pryshe churches, howses of religion, hospitalls, and chapelles, and other such lyke, and as many wynde melles, and as many toppe scheppes, &c., but any other profe than as before is declared I have not to alledge, &c. Therefore in this hehalf, use yower discretion, &c.

“Also you shall fu^r understand, that it hath been credably reported and declared, that there was an^r psh church in Donewich, of St Felix, which ch. was very many years past taken and drowned in the sea, and nothing thereof now remain^s to be seen nor pceyved: the which Felix was he that was the first Bishop of Donwyche, and supposed to be founder of the same church. And that here was his seat, as it hath been said. And that he was a Burgoyne, and was made bishop of Donwiche by Kynge Sygeburtus, or Segebert, Kynge of Est Englande, or Norff. as Fabian declareth in his Chronicle, (the fyfte pte) the 33 chapter: and the said Felex was bishop of Donewich 16 yere. And after him, Thomas was bishop of Donewich 5 yere; and after him Boniface was bishope there 17 yeres. Then Byly afterwarde was ordayned, and made bishop of Donewich by Theodorus, and he ruled that provence, while he might endever by himself a lone, and after him unto Egbertus tyme, Kynge of West Saxons, an hundred and xliij^a yeares. Than two bishops rulled that provence, the one of them at Donwyche and the other at Elyng^ham.⁴⁶ Neverthe less after . . . or . . . or such lyke names tyme, Kynge of Mercia, the seae of Donwicke scaped and lefte of. And there was there one onelye seae at Elyng^ham, and soo there continued unto the 1^{te} yeare of Kynge Willm the Conquerour, and then Harfastus, the xxiiij byshoppe of the Estrene changed his seae from thence unto Thetforde, and his successor Herbertus changed the seae from Thetforde unto Norwyche, by the license of King Willm Rufus (or the Rede) and ever since Kynge Willm Rufus tyme untill this p^sent tyme, there at Norwyche, the bishoppes seae hath bene there kept, and contin^d: looke more for the proffe hereof in the

⁴⁶ Elmham.

Chronicle of Willm Caxton in the description of Englonde in the xiiij^{te} chapter de orientalibus episcopis, &c.

“Also I thynke yowe doo remember the maner, fourme and fashen of the Byldinge and makynge of Seint John’s cherche, and St Nicholl’s cherche, how they ware crosse eilled both No. and south, and the steples in the myde, lyke cathedrall cherches now used, and as it semethe as the old manor and fashen than was. And most lykesle soo was the aforesaid church of Seynt Felix, for certaynlie one of those three churches was the byshoppes seate at Donwyche, yf one of them ware not after another, as the sea drowned them. And further yowe shall certaynlie understand that when St John’s church was taken down, there laye a verie fayer playne grave stone in the chancelle, and when it was raysed and taken up, nexte under the same gravestone was a greate hollowe stone, hollowed after the fashen of a man (for a man to lie in) and therein a man lyeing with a payer of botts upon his legges, the fore part of the feet of them peicked after a straunge fayshen, and a payer of chalice of course mettall, lyinge upon his breste, the whyche was thought to be one of the bysshoppes of Donewyche, but whan they touched and stered the same dead bodie, it felle and went all to powder and doste. And although these afsd three olde churches were not sumtious, greate, and verie fayer, after the manner and fashen of cathedrall cherches now used, for it seemeth that they myght serve in those dayes very well, for it plainly appeareth in the aforesaid boke of the description of Englande, in the Title of Bishopricke and ther sees, the xiiij^{te} chapter, where as is sayd these words following—Take hede, for in the beginning of Hollie cherche in Englonde, Bysshoppes ordayned and had their sees in lowe places and symple, that ware coneable and mete for contemplacion, prayer, and devocion, &c. But in Kynge Willm the Conqueror’s tyme, by dome of Law Canon, it was otherwise ordayned that Bishoppes sholde remove and come out of small townes, and to have their sees in grete cities, by means whof it semethe that the town of Donwyche, beinge than greatlie decayed, and also than lykelie everie daye more and more to decaye (as it hath done in dede) from a great citie as some doth saye, or at the least from a verie greate aunchent towne, to a verie little small towne, was the cause of the bishopes seat of Donwiche was removed from Donwyche, Ellyngham, and Thetford as before is sayd and declared, unto the citie of Norwich, whas it yet remaineth.

“But after the opynion of some writters it semethe that the Bishops seate of Donewych was removed from Donwyche, and seassed and left of (from Donewyche and Ellyngham) unto Ellyngham only, for as much as two Bishopes together rulled that provence, the one at Donwyche, and the other at Ellingham, as before is sayd, about the year of our Lord’s incarnacion, or the year of grace, eight hundred and ode, as nere as I can gesse.

“Also ye know veri well the greate deike that is called the Palles Deike, and the gate spaces goinge throughe and over the same deike, from and oute of the subbarbes into the said town, viz. the Bridge gates, or Seint James’s strete gates—the mydle gates, the Gylding gates, and the south gates, the which gate spaces are now so called, and yet doth still there remain, and all the rest of the gates are now drowned in the sea, all the which af̄sd gatespaces there is a number of old aunchent dedes and dyvers evidence to prove the same, and that doth soo name and call them as af̄sd. Now, Sir, ye shall consider that whan all the sayd gate spaces were howsed over, and strongly gated, and a myghtie stronge and long pale standing all a long upon the bank of the sd Palles deike, of the which pale it first took the name of the Palles deike, than all that part of the town was of grete forse, and strong enowghe to keep out a greate number of people cuminge out of the lowe contrie, and out of the west p̄t, and in specially before any gones were had and known, as this defence and strengthe was made and had long before any guns ware devised, had, or known.

“Now for as much as the west parte of the town, viz. to the contrie wards, ware so strong as it afore is expressed and declared, than it may be very well conjectured and gathered, that the Este p̄te of the town next to the sea, whereas all the chefe danger of the enemies was to be feared and doughted, was then made strongare than the west syde was, whar no danger was to be doughted at all, either with the like Dyke, Pale and Gates, or elles with the bullworks, mounts, trenches, or with some other such strong defence of walles, towers and castelles. The which defences and strengths, or at the least, some p̄te of them certainlie there was, but whatsoever it was when the sea came to it, it was all overthrown and drowned in the sea, as all the three parts, or two parts of the town of Donwyche was, as is afore expressed and declared.

“Now, Syr, touchen your note that you sent me concerning castelles, or any such lyke, I have none other profe, for the same, but only as I have conjectured as is a fore-said, which is verie like to be true, for the este part of the towne next the sea, could not be strong without a castle or such lyke.

“But there is within this town now at this present daye, 7 or 8 great high hills there standing, viz. one at the north end by the keye, and two other a little from these called the Beacon Hylles, and 3 other hills called the Massendue Hills, and also two other hills, next the Black friars, besyde dyvers other highe hills in the sayd Palles dyke, by the aforesaid gate-spaces.

“And as touchinge your note whether there was a Mynt in Donwyche or not, and when it was removed from thence, it is comenly said by credable persons that hath sene dyvers coynes, that ware coyned in Donwyche, as Mr. Hallydaye for one, who once, as he hymself toulde me that he had a grote, that the superscription of the one side of the same grote was Civitas Donwic, and I myself ded ons see a grote about 30 years past,

that had the like superscripcion; and in lyke case divers other p̄sons hath sayd that they have seen the lyke.

“And as concerning the removing of the said mint from Donwiche, it is to be supposed that it was at or abought such tyme or tymes as all other mynts ware removed from other cities, viz. from Canterberie, Dorram, Yorke, and the other like places, wharat in tymes past, myntes hath been. But scerclie do suppose that since the forte yeare of King Edward the forte, that never one of all the sayd towns had any mynt in them, but how longe before that I putt it to your judgment.

“Also, Master Deye, as concerning that there was a Mayer and 3 Baillies⁴⁷ in Donwyche, I trust I have sufficiently instructed you thof, by my former wryttynge, for the profe of the same; but if need had required I could have had almost 20 auncient deeds more to have proved and testified the same, and sum of them are without date, and dyvers skilful men that hath seen them sayeth, that sum of them ware made long before the Conquest, in the Saxons time, for some of the sd evidences are of the Saxon hande, ut dicitre. Whereby it planlie appeareth that there was a Mayor and 3 Ballies in Donewyche, for certainly the said town ever since the Conquest, hath continually wasted and decayed by the force and violence of the sea. Yet it seemeth by the afsd records of the afsd mayer and three ballies that governed and ruled the said town, that it was a town of great quantitie of largeness and bygness, and great numbers of people inhabettynge within the said town, for as much as it required soo many governors and rulers to govern and rule the same; but never the less, it appeareth by the meanes of the decaying of the said town, that it was soore decayed, and but small in quantitie in the end of the reign of Kynge Edward the 1st, viz. about the year of our Lord God, 1306.

“In consideracion whereof, than at that tyme the people being but few in number, and the towne sore decayed, as is afsd, than the Mayer sessed, and one of the Ballies also. And also the Fee-fearme of the town lessed from a greater sum unto a lesser sum, after the quantitie of the town than remayning, viz. unto the sum of £ xii. viij^s. iiij^d.; and than, it seemeth, it was thought good that two ballies should be sufficiente to governe and rule the sayd town, being than but small in quantitie, and the people but few in number, in comparison of the quantity and number that it had been of in tymes then past. This supposed to be one of the chieftest cawses why the mayer and one of the ballyes seassed, and the fee-farm of the town cessed as afsd.

“By these means and ways afore rehersed, the town and the people sho^d be greatly

⁴⁷ This is strong internal evidence that Stow was the writer of this MS., for Gardner, page 77, observes, “Stow, in his Chronicles, p. 73, says this town was governed by a mayor and *three* bailiffs;” but he was mistaken.

lessed, and a greate dele lesser now than it was then, for there is now, at this present time, of all sorts of people, not a bove seaven hundred and an half, both of men, women, strangers, and children, within the town of Donewich afs^d.

“Also lastlie ye shall undirstand, that it hath been reported that there hath been, long tyme paste, another parish church in the subbarbes of the town of Donewiche, called Myssemeare pryshe, standing about a quarter of a mile from Messemeare haven, to Donewyche ward. And the inhabitations and buildings that did belong to the same parish, sum of them ware called Mysemeare street, and Mysmeare row; as I have heard Syr Edmonde Rous, knyght, saye that he had evidence of the same to show it so called the same. The which parish, if there ware any such, is now all drowned in the sea, and nothings thof now remayning to be perceived or seen for the profe thof, orwise than as before is expressed and decl^d known not: therefore in this behalf use your own discretion.

“Also, last of all, I called to my remembrance, that I have both seen, and read, a very old anchent deed of a p^{ce} of ground lying 3 or 4 miles from Donewiche into the contrie. That deed but or layd the same pece of ground upon, or bye the king’s way, leadinge unto the citie of Donwyche. And also I have seen an old indenture of grounds belonging to St James, in Donwyche, that hath, in lyke case, named Donwyche, the citie of Donwiche. And the comon fame of the people hath been allways that it was a citie, and called the citie of Donwiche; wherefore consider of this, as to you shall seem best.

“And thus I conclude, and make an ende for this tyme.

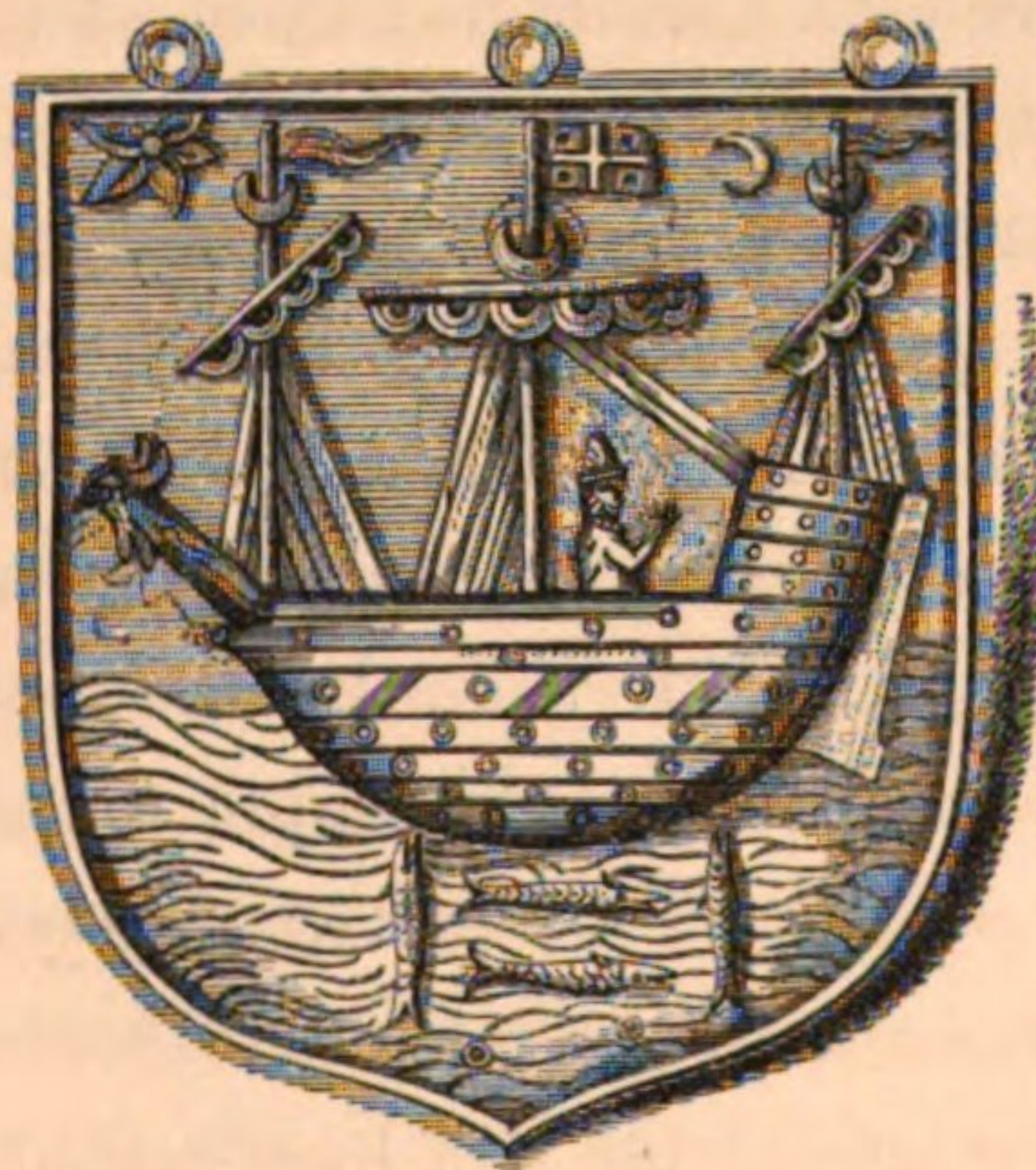
“Master Deye, touchen my former wrytting unto yowe, conserninge the armes of the town of Donewiche, and wat is in the Masses, and in there comon sealle; and also in their seale of office, &c., which is the cheffe, and supposed to be given by Kynge Edward the thyrde,⁴⁸ as I have before to yowe wrytten, &c. But what they gaffe in all those before Kyng Edward the thyrde, thereof I have made no menchent at all. But as it semethye to me it was most lykesle that they gave the three lyons, as the kynge than gave, for the time being, whan the said towne was in most prosperitie, w^t sum defference, or barre. The cause whye, I doo soo thynke is becawse I see in the ende of their masses, the shippe is on the one syde, and the kings armes as they be geven nowe, on the other side of the ende of their masses. Here is all that I doo suppose and gather concerninge the same; and all thoughe it be very slenderleye consydered, yet I thought it good to let yowe understand itt, and to putt yowe in remembrance, that ye myght consider further, and better these thynges, according to your understandinge and knowledge, that you have and may gett for the same.”

⁴⁸ More probably King Edward IV., who granted the men of Dunwich a more extensive charter.

The mace mentioned in the preceding account is of silver, weighing eleven ounces and three-quarters, and is in length ten inches and a half. It is made in the shape of a bolt or arrow; upon the broad end, or head of which are engraved the royal arms, quartered with those of the borough. From the peculiar shape of the shield on which these are cut, I should not ascribe to it a greater age than the reign of Henry VIII.

In the Jermyn collections, mention is made of a manuscript description of Dunwich of the time of James I., on the outward cover of which is this note: "The present of Thomas Manning, Esq., of Bungay, to Thomas Barber, of Yarmouth, 1776, formerly in the possession of Charles Scrivener, Esq., of Sibton Abbey." The MS. consists of thirty-eight leaves, small 4to, and was, in 1811, in the possession of the Rev. John Mitford, of Benhall; having been bought by him at a bookseller's at Norwich. In it is written, in a modern hand, "tradition says, there was a patent to the Scriveners to hunt in a forest fifteen miles east of Dunwich." Gardner also speaks of a like permission to hunt and hawk in this forest, granted to the Rous family; but as Eastwood—which I take to be the forest in question—was destroyed before the Norman Conquest, both traditions must be considered as unsupported by facts.

The corporation also possesses an ancient silver badge, on which are the town arms. Three small rings are attached to the top, through which was passed a ribbon or cord of silk, by means of which it was suspended on the breast of the Serjeant-at-mace, of whose office it formed an especial mark.



In 1589, the port of Dunwich was again choked by the violence of the north-east winds. It was then called "Hummerston's Cut," and appears to have been of very



difficult access, in consequence of a dangerous sand, which obstructed the entrance. "It was called Passely-Sands, where dyverse have perished, and about eleven years since, twenty persons, or thereabouts, were drowned, when as Maister Bouteler, yet living, lost two sonnns, and one son-in-law."⁴⁹ The inhabitants of Dunwich now made urgent applications to have their old port re-opened close to the town; or at least to have the new haven constructed nearer to them than the last. But these were overruled by the merchants of Southwold and Walberswick. The costs to Dunwich in opening this fifth cut, which was of little advantage to their trade, amounted to £ 300; a sum which seems to have well-nigh impoverished the town. Gardner has printed a "report of Dunwich by Radulph Agas," made in this year, 1589, which I shall not scruple to repeat, as its survey embraces various notices of the town which the preceding account does not glance at.

"The toune of Dunwich, a coaste toune, near the midle of the sheire, is scituate upon a cliffe, fortie foot hie, or there about; bounded on the easte with the Otian sea, on the weaste with the toune of Westleton, and is girte on the weaste and south, neare to the bodie of the toune, with an auncient bancke, whereof parte is now built with the wall of the Graieffriers, the north and southe ends are environ'd with diverse marishes, shredds, and divided with fleetes, crickes and diches: the auntient haven there was sometime at the north ende of the toune, where standeth nou their Keie, which haven was utterlie choaked upp, with a north-easte winde, the foretene daie of Januarie, anno 1 Edward III., notwithstandinge, if it were recovered, woulde not onlie preserve the toune from the danger of the sea, but bie helpe of a sluice weastwarde, woulde soe mainetaine the same as might likelse bringe the same toune neare to her former estate and condition. At the losse of this haven, another was opened verie neare the place where Dunwich men have, now in a shorte time, bie helpe of nature, prepared a passage, as by ancient inquisit, and other evidence maie plainlie appeare, videz. fere duas leucas ab antiquo portu: that this haven hath beene oftentimes chaunged; for the whole raunge of shingle assureth it in noe place certaine, causinge it to runne southward bie trussing, and choakinge the same with beach, appeareth bie sondrie evidence, videliz. that the men of Bliborough, Walberswick, and Southwold, shall paie duelye to Dunwich men their toules and customes, ubicunque portus ille mutari contigeret. That as novi portus ac filum aquæ ejusdem shall be the boundes betwene the toune of Dunwich and the lordship of Bliborough, ubicunque dictum novum portum in futurum diverti vel mutari per jactum sabuli vel aliunde contigeret; as also bie the vieu of the place itselfe. Notwithstandinge were it now runneth, these have bie good happe lighted on an owse banke, at the south side of the haven, which causeth the back water to turne

⁴⁹ Gardner (from an ancient MS.), p. 40.

of the beach, and to lie straight againe the mouth, as hathe happened divers times since the same was opened first. And although the north-easte windes hath been, since the same was opened, most violent and extreme, as also the 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the present moneth, yet the verie nexte daie affter, being the fourteenth daie, divers loaden crayers went readilie out of the same. And whereas there are now to flattes, on the north side of this haven, which the Walberswich and Southwold men would willinglie turn Dunwich men unto, beinge notwithstandinge owners, under her Majestie, of the same haven there, and more than a mile above, and the intended cuttes of the saied Walberswick and Southwold men there, very dangerous to all passengers, bie reason of certaine flattes caled Passelie Sands, yf a cutt were made both on a levell, and as appeareth owessy ground, from the weast flatt toward their keies, they should remedie those flattes, and perfect the haven as bie this platt maie better appear.⁵⁰ Touchinge the state of the toun in times paste, it appeareth, as well by their charter as otherwise, that it hath benn one of the antienst tounes in this yland; that there hath been a Bishoppes Sea, also a minte, and a market everie daie in the week. And hath also, for their sondrie faiethfull and espetial servises, as makeinge out at some one time eleven strong and well furnished shyppes, for the defence of the realme at their owne costes and charges, by the space of thirteen weakes, and more, with loss of 500 men, and £1000 in gooddes, &c., from time to time stodd in high favour with the kinges of this land, of whom they have received most large and liberall graunts of priviledges, liberties, customes, &c., besides sundrie letters from sutch kinges, written to the burgesses there, for the preservation of their liberties, priviledges and customes of anchorage, mesurage, preferments of merchandiz, wreckes, groundage, arrestes, and distresses, partayning to the same, &c., bie meane whereof they have benn from time to time, nurses, fosterers and mainetainers, for easie and reasonable toules and customes unto the people, and men of Bliborough, Walberswick and Southwold: the lorde of which Bliborough hath now in farm, the ferie at the new haven for the rent but of twenty shilling a yeare to the bailiffes, burgesses, and communal of Dunwich aforesaid."

Where the original "platt," mentioned by Agas, is now deposited, the writer is unable to say; but Vertue⁵¹ had seen, on a large skin of vellum, a plan of the town and boundaries of Dunwich, with its churches, adjacent villages, &c., and several remarks made by Radulphus Agas in 1589.

In 1596, the town of Dunwich was assessed at twenty marks, which were collected towards maintaining the ships employed in her Majesty's service; and in the same year, in obedience to her letters directed to the bailiffs, the inhabitants made a speedy pre-

⁵⁰ Agas's map accompanies this description in Gardner.

⁵¹ Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting*, vol. i. p. 267.

paration of armories, readily providing armour, post-horses, and other conveyances, for her service, and gunpowder for the ordnance of the town.⁵² In 1597 is recorded a singular attempt on the part of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, and Edward Coke, her Majesty's Attorney-General, to influence the returns of the Burgesses sent by Dunwich to the English Parliament. Their interference seems to have been taken in good part by the electors of the day, but would hardly have passed so unnoticed at the present time of political inquiry, had Dunwich retained her elective franchise.

THE EARL OF ESSEX'S REQUEST.

Forasmuch as the Right Honourable the Earle of Essex have addressed his letters to the towne, thereby requesting to have the nomynating and appoynting of both burgesses to serve for our towne in her Majesty's Parliament next entended to be holden at Westminster, in regard thereof, all the companies here, now are well pleased, and do give their willing consent to satisfie his good Honour's request in part, viz. to have the poynting of one of the burgesses, and not of tother, for that thother was elected and apoynted before the receipt of his letter. Item, Mr. Edw. Cooke, her Highness Attorney-General, have made earnest request to have the choyce of one in the Parliament-House next for the said Burroughe. And the Assemblie being moved therewith have verie willinglie yeilded their consents thereto, in special regard of his kind and continual favour and frendshippe many wayes done and showed to the towne."

What a morsel for the advocates of Reform! Mr. Attorney-General's "kind and continual favour and frendshippe many wayes done and showed to the towne" is certainly racy and refined.

From a small octavo book perused by the writer, containing notices of the corporate proceedings, it appears that all who paid scot and lot in the town were entitled to the right of voting for the election of Burgesses in Parliament.

In the year 1602, notwithstanding their depressed circumstances, the inhabitants of Dunwich cheerfully expressed their loyalty in providing against the invasions of the men of Dunkirk.

On the 31st of March, 1603, the accession of King James to the throne of Great Britain was proclaimed at Dunwich by Thomas Rous, Esq. By this monarch a further charter of confirmation of privileges was granted to the borough.

The sea was still encroaching on this devoted spot. In 1608, the high road to the beach was washed away; the foundations of the buildings formerly the residence of the Knights Templars soon after disappeared; and in 1677, the sea had reached the market-place, when the townsmen, anticipating the destruction of the place, pulled down and

⁵² Gardner, p. 18.

sold the lead of the market cross: three years afterwards, all the buildings north of Maison Dieu lane were demolished. Charles the Second, in consideration of the poverty and low estate of the town, by letters patent, dated 5th January, and in the thirteenth year of his reign, reduced the fee-farm to one hundred shillings per annum, from thenceforth during his pleasure; and by the same instruments remitted and released all the arrears of the fee-farm, and term for custody. This reduced rental of one hundred shillings his Majesty granted as parcel of jointure to his Queen, Catharine of Braganza, who died on the 20th of December, 1705, when Dunwich stood indebted to the Crown £1260, for the arrears of twenty-one years, at £60 per annum, from the sixth day of February, 1684, when King Charles died. In the sixth of William and Mary, a new charter was granted to the borough of Dunwich, under which the present corporation exists. It confirms all former charters, and restores all the rights and privileges which had been wrested from them by the surrender of their charters in the reigns of Charles II. and James II. Under the old charters, the borough of Dunwich was entitled to, and to take, all wreck found on the beach, from the south pier of Southwold harbour, on the north, to the before-mentioned head-land, called Cachecliff, on the south. They also have and hold an Admiralty Court, and the bailiffs have jurisdiction, as Admirals, of wreck and derelict goods found at sea on the like extent,—that is to say, from Southwold harbour to Cachecliff.⁵³ In 1702, the assaults of the sea being renewed, the townsmen were under the necessity of breaking down the church dedicated to St. Peter; and in 1715, the jail was undermined. In the fourth of George I., A.D. 1718, processes were served upon several men of Dunwich for arrearages of rent, due to the Crown for their fee-farm; and upon non-payment, ten burgesses were imprisoned in Beccles jail; and others, to avoid the like confinement, were obliged to abscond. But at a trial, in consideration of their poverty, proceeding from the loss of their lands by the sea, the disuse of their port, and the deprivation of all tolls, customs, and dues, formerly paid by Blythborough, Walberswick and Southwold, it was adjudged, that where it could not be had, the King must lose his right, whereby the prisoners were discharged, and the town acquitted; and Sir George Downing obtained a grant of the fee-farm for ninety-nine years at five pounds rent, per annum.⁵⁴ Gardner records⁵⁵ the devastating effects of an awful storm which took place here in December, 1740.

“The wind blowing very hard about north-east, with a continuance for several days, occasioned great seas, doing much damage on the coast during that time, by inundations, breaking down the banks, and overflowing many marshes, &c. The

⁵³ This wreck of sea restored to Dunwich is no invaluable privilege. About sixty years since, a large quantity of wine was thus obtained; and in 1803, as much tallow as sold for £2000.

⁵⁴ Gardner, p. 26, note.

⁵⁵ Page 95.

sad effects thereof were severely felt by Dunwich, when a great deal of its cliffs were washed away, with the last remains of St. Nicholas's church-yard; and the great road heretofore leading into the town from the key; leaving several naked wells, tokens of ancient buildings, and from Maison Dieu lane northwards, a continued scene of confusion. Part of the old key, built with stone, lay bare; making canals cross the beach, through which the river had communications with the sea, to the hindrance of the people on foot travelling that way, for some days. King's-Holm, (alias Leonard's Marsh) heretofore valued at 200, and then at 100 pounds per annum, laid under water, and much shingle and sand thrown thereon from off the beach; and rendering it ever since of little worth; much of the pasture, and of their arable land, destroyed.

"The sea raged with such fury, that Cock and Hen Hills, which the preceding summer were upwards of forty feet high, and in the winter partly washed away, this year had their heads levelled with their bases, and the ground about them so rent and torn, that the foundation of St. Francis' chapel, which was laid between the said hills, was discovered. Where, besides the ruins of the walls, were five round stones near of a bigness. The dimensions of one I took, were four feet the diameter, and near two the thickness. There was likewise a circle of large stumps of piles, about twenty-four feet circumference. The bounds of the cemetery were staked, within which the secret repositories of the dead were exposed to open view: several skeletons on the ouze divested of their coverings; some lying in pretty good order, others interrupted and scattered, as the surges carried them. Also a stone coffin, wherein were human bones covered with tiles. Before a conveniency offered for removing the coffin, it was broke in two pieces by the violence of the sea, which serve now for steps at each foot of Deering bridge.

"At the same time and near the chapel, the pipes of an aqueduct were found—some of lead, others of grey earth, like that of some urns. On the lowest part of the chapel's yard, was the flag retaining the old dead grass, and in several places the impression of the spade. Although it had been, beyond the memory of the eldest person in the town, raised four or five feet high, with made earth, bearing good grass, corn, and turnips. A crop of the latter then growing thereon—but at that time was reduced to beach, over which the sea plays ever since at high tides. Between that and Maison Dieu lane, many roots of trees were washed bare."

Mr. Gardner further adds, that some time in the winters of 1746 and 1749, "the shingle and sand were so abluted in some places, by the vehemence of the furious waves of the sea, which at those times overflowed the beach, that the foundations of houses, and the banks on each side of the *New Port* and *Hummerston's Cut*, were exhibited to open view;" and that "in the year 1740, as the men of Dunwich were digging a trench near their old port, cross the beach, to make a water-gang to drain

their marshes and low grounds, drowned the preceding winter by the inundation of the sea, which drove prodigious quantities of shingle and sand into the river, filling it in several places, so that the water could not disembogue itself, they happened on a stone wall, cemented exceeding strong, which was part of their *old key*; and near that, on a well; both which I saw as they were working. At which time several pieces of old coins and other curiosities were found." These discoveries are represented in a rude engraving in Mr. Gardner's work, and are,—1st, a bodkin or pin, with a silver head; 2nd, a very ancient brass key with double wards; and, 4th, part of an old brass lock.⁵⁶ No considerable encroachments of the sea have taken place at Dunwich for about seventy years past. In 1754, when Gardner wrote his history, divine service was performed once a fortnight in All Saints' church, which was then the only sacred edifice in use. This was, however, discontinued altogether, about the period just mentioned, when the last great inroad of the ocean was made on Dunwich. It seems that the fears of the inhabitants, who then dismantled their last remaining temple, anticipated real danger, for the church would even now—so far as situation is concerned—serve the purposes of public worship. Fear, however, is said not to have been the only passion then excited, and that the value of the bells and lead went far towards effecting this desecration.

In the month of March, 1808, the people of Dunwich were roused from their sleep, about two o'clock in the morning, by the firing of very heavy guns from the sea. Many of them opened their windows to listen, and ascertained the cause: the night was extremely dark, but the flashes of the guns supplied a momentary light, and as they were fired in succession, appeared to approach nearer and nearer from the south. After a time, the noise of cannon-balls passing through the air was distinctly heard. The general impression was, that the French invading army had reached the shores, and that the enemy were preparing to land. Most of the inhabitants hastily put on their clothes, and procured lights to assist them in finding some place of security for their families; but the firing suddenly stopped; and the conjecture is, that the lights enabled the crew of the vessel to find out their mistake, and the wrong direction of their guns. A few persons had run towards the beach, and reached it about the time the firing ceased. They could distinguish a large vessel, from which the shots had come, which was then making sail from the shore, while a smaller vessel, something like a Berwick smack, was creeping along towards the

⁵⁶ In the 'Gentleman's Magazine' for March, 1806, p. 217, are figured, 1st, an ancient brass key, which, when perfect, had double wards. 2. An ancient brass seal; the device, an angel holding something in the right hand; legend, S. Rogeri Angeli. 3. A brass ring, with R, crowned. These were originally the property of Mr. Gardner, but were not discovered at the time of his auction, when his collection was sold; but were shortly after purchased of his widow, with other curiosities, by a Mr. Creed, of Beccles.

north, as near to the beach as possible. If the vessel had continued firing, the next shot would have, probably, come into the midst of the inhabited houses, and caused the destruction of property, if not of life. One shot, after striking the ground twice, and furrowing it up for a considerable distance, had passed through a stack of wood, and one wall of Mr. Barne's stable. Here it became spent, and was found lodged in the manger. Two or three horses had left the stable only the preceding day, which could hardly have escaped without injury, had they been then in it. The cannon-balls came from the stores of the King of England, being marked with the broad arrow. That which lodged in Mr. Barne's stable, and is now placed in the house at Dunwich, is a 32-pounder. Several were taken out of the cliff, and others found more than a mile from the shore. Application was made at the Admiralty, and the logs of several King's vessels, stationed near the eastern coast, were examined; but nothing could be found to lead to the discovery of the vessel which fired the shots.⁵⁷ Dunwich, as a borough, sent Burgesses to Parliament by prescription, and not by charter.⁵⁸ Its first members were, Thomas Torold and William Sacor, who assisted in the Parliament held at York in the twenty-third of Edward I. It was disfranchised by the "Act to amend the representation of the people in England and Wales," passed on the 7th of June, 1832. The members were elected in the old Town House, or Hall, now used as a school-room. Here they were chaired, and carried in procession up and down the road before its front, for about a hundred yards; and in it the election feasts were formerly kept. In this low and not imposing apartment stands an old Dutch iron-bound chest, in which are deposited the town records, secured by a multiplicity of springs and locks. It contains a small octavo book, of about two hundred pages, commencing about the reign of Henry IV. In the first page is written the charter of Henry IV. It seems to be a book of the corporate proceedings, and records presentments, lists of the burgesses, freemen, &c. The following are some of the entries, given by way of illustration.

Page 3. "Also it is presented that John Renton and Robert Clerk found as much timber of wreck of sea as is worth 3^s. 4^d., which the bailiffs sold to the Friars Minors.

"Also it is presented that John Renton and James Schipeman found one barrel with *cac*,⁵⁹ price 6^s. 8^d."

"Also it was presented that Robert Reunton found one turbot, price 4^s. of wreck.

"Also it is presented that Robert Cauncelor found likewise one porpoise, price 5^s."

Much curious, if not important matter, is probably contained in this book, which is not known by any particular name, nor has it any index, or table of contents. In the chest is also a register-book, containing the proceedings of the assemblies, common halls, and other meetings, relative to the corporation business from the 27th of October, 1595, to the 17th of June, 1629. The following is an example of its contents.

⁵⁷ MS. F. Barne, Esq.

⁵⁸ Town Records.

⁵⁹ Cheese.

“1601. Donwiche—Thassemblye holden there undecimo die mensis octobr. Regni dñe Elizabete, nunc regine Anglie, quadragesimo trio. Item—John Suckling, arm. secretarie to the right honora. the Lord Highe Treasurer of England, at this assemblie is elected and apoynted to serve, and set there for thother burgesse of this towne.”

There is a second book of similar import, dating from the 11th of December, 1627, to 1650, and a third of the same description from 6th December, 1654, to July 18th, 1673. This last gives at some length an account of the proceedings between King Charles I. and his Parliament, and the arguments used in the conference between the two Houses, &c. But, as it is presumed that these matters are to be found in the Parliamentary journals, and are foreign to the present subject, they are here noticed as concisely as possible.

Upon the expiration of the grant of the fee-farm, obtained from the Crown by Sir George Downing, for ninety-nine years, at £ 5 per annum, this impost seems to have ceased, and is become obsolete. The present corporation are now the lords of the manor, and I find, on inquiry, pay no fine whatever, and hold it by a perpetual tenure. In the reign of Richard I., the men of Dunwich acquired the privilege of answering for their fee-farm, by their own hands. What remains of the ancient boundaries of Dunwich forms a long narrow strip of land, extending about five miles and a half in length from a point, south of the town, to the southern pier of Southwold Haven; and contains, according to a survey made in 1826,—1360 acres and 38 perches.

There are no means known to the writer, of ascertaining the exact population of this place in early times. The compilers of Domesday were rather desirous of furnishing an abstract of revenues due to the Exchequer, than an enumeration of inhabitants; and the record gives us, accordingly, a very imperfect view of the actual number of residents in any place, especially in the towns and cities. In the Confessor's reign we have only the following meagre return :

Burgesses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	120
Bordars	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Total of inhabitants	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	132

At the Norman Survey the return, in this point of view, is rather more copious, though still imperfect, as it omits altogether any mention of servants, females, and children, with many others of various ranks in society, who must have been then resident.

Burgesses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	236
Tenants of Gislebert Blund	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	80
Franci homines	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24
Bordars	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Pauperes homines	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	178
Total	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	520

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the population, including all ranks and conditions, was under 750; and in 1754, there were but thirty-five houses, and about 100 inhabitants.

In 1841, the population of Dunwich amounted to 237 souls.

In the height of its prosperity it had a daily market, which decreased as the borough declined, to one weekly, on Saturday; but this, for many years past, has been quite disused. St. Leonard's fair was held in that parish, on the 5th, 6th, and 7th days of November. Gardner considers that the destruction of the parish by the sea put an end to it. The Prior of Eye, by grant from Henry I., had all liberties and customs of this fair, which he held in right of his church of St. Peter, at Eye, of which privileges Augustine Fitz-John sought to deprive him. The prior paid five shillings per annum towards the fee-farm rent for this fair. St. James's fair was kept in the street bearing that saint's name, on the anniversary of his festival, July 25th, and the day following, and is still observed.

Just south of the town stands the residence of Frederick Barne, Esq., which, from a cottage converted into a shooting-box, has grown into a spacious and elegant mansion.



In this gentleman's possession is a small collection of the relics of ancient Dunwich, amongst which may be noticed a coin of Claudius Nero; a large brass in most excellent preservation; a curious head and bust of a figure, cast in the mixed metal of which the celts are composed, and thought by Mr. Barne to have formed a hammer; and a gold ring, found by a labourer hoeing turnips, on which is inscribed "Time trieth reallitie." A much more extensive and valuable cabinet of curiosities connected with this place, made by Mr. Barne's predecessors, is now dispersed, and of which not even a catalogue is preserved.



F. Bedford Litho. London

Drawn by M^{rs} Barne

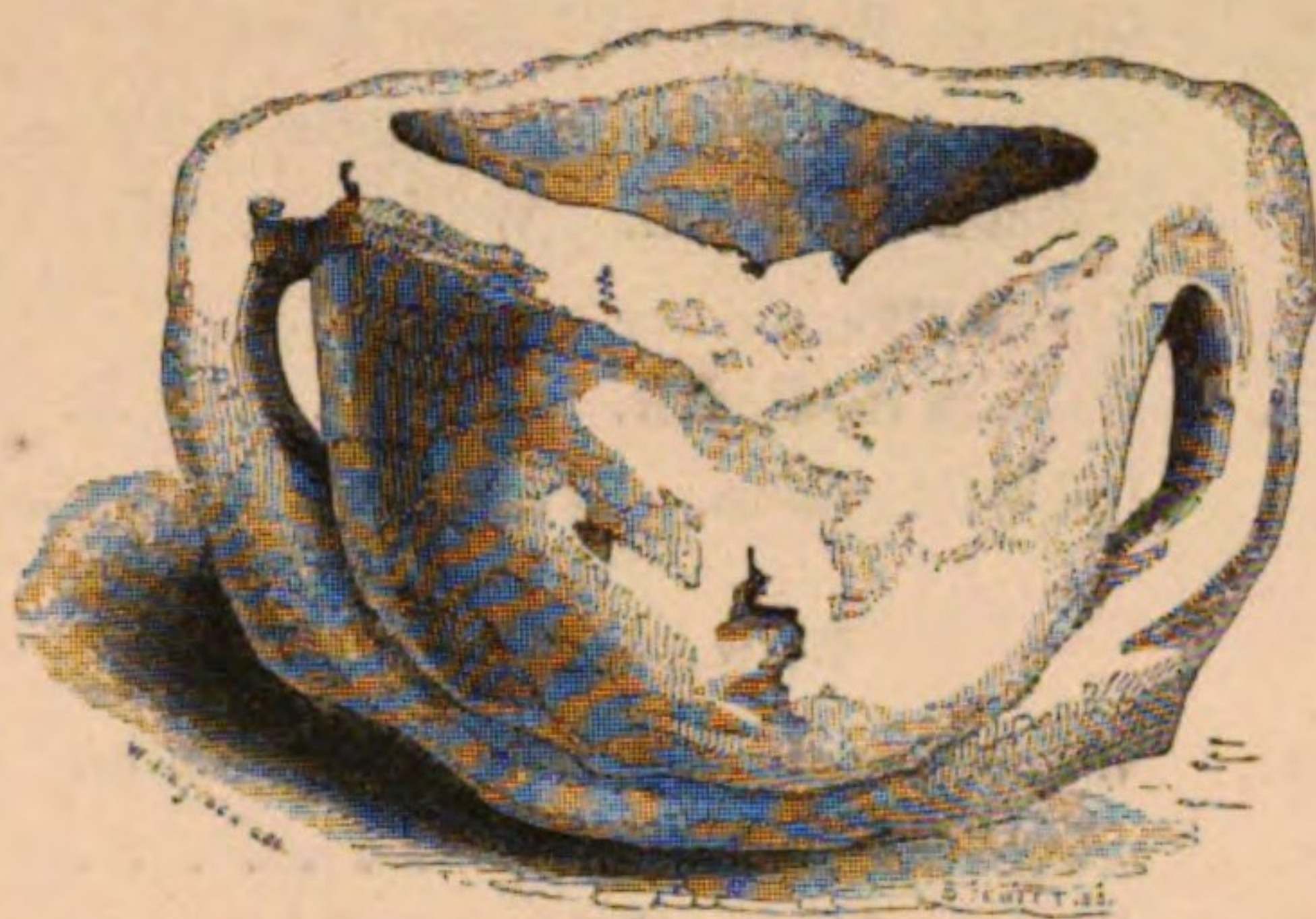
GRAY FRIARS. DUNWICH.

THE SEAT OF FREDERICK BARNEESQ^{re}

London. Published by the Author

Printed by Stansfeld & Co.

Subjoined is the representation of an ancient stoup, or basin, dredged up off Dunwich by some boatmen, who were collecting cement stone. It measures fifteen inches in width at the top, and is nine inches and a half in depth. It is now in the possession of W. S. Fitch, Esq., of Ipswich.



We must not omit to notice a simple little flower which grows wild amidst the ruins of the place, called

“the Dunwich rose, with snow-like blossom,
Soft, pure, and white, as is the cygnet's bosom;
This decks the stern and sterile cliff; and throws
O'er its rough brow new beauty where it grows.”

Tradition says this floweret was originally planted here and cultivated by the monks. It has given name to a once popular air, known as “Dunwich Roses.”

Dingle is, as its name imports, a swale or shallow valley on the north of the town, lying between Dunwich and Walberswick, but included within the bounds of Westleton, and was more populous in former times than it is at present. Gardner mentions a stone coffin which he had seen at a house here, misused as a water-trough.⁶⁰ The river in ancient days flowed with an ample channel through this valley, but is now reduced to a sluggish rivulet.

John de Donewich, probably a native of this town, was master of Clare Hall, Cambridge, in 1371. In the following year he filled the office of chancellor, and maintained a sharp controversy with Thomas Arundell, Bishop of Ely, respecting the immunities of the University, claiming for it an exemption from episcopal jurisdiction, in which he totally failed.⁶¹ Blomefield, in his History of Norwich, mentions a William de Dunwich, and Catharine, his wife, who gave to the Black Friars, at Norwich, a garden on the west side of their site; and also a Roger of Dunwich, and Alice, his wife, who were benefactors to the monks of that city.

⁶⁰ Page 111.

⁶¹ Godwinus de Præsulibus Angliæ, f. 266, n. S.

MEMBERS IN PARLIAMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNWICH.

EDWARD I.

26. Parliament at York.	Thomas Torald. Willius, filius Sacor.
28. Parl. at Westminster.	William Bedell. William Austin.
28. Parl. at Lincoln.	Austin de la Faleyse. Austin Valeyne.
30. Parl. at London.	William de Bedell. William Austin.
33. Parl. at Westminster.	The same.
34. Coun. at Westminster.	William de Bedell.
35. Parl. at Carlisle.	Robert Codoun. William de Gretynham.

EDWARD II.

1. Parl. at Northampton.	William de Bedell. William Austin.
2. Parl. at Westminster.	Augustus Boyton.
4. Parl. at Westminster.	Warinus Sket. Johannes Cok.
5. Parl. at London.	William Austin. Augustinus de Faleyse.
6. Parl. at Westminster.	Warinus Sket. William de Okley.
7. Parl. at Westminster.	Johannes Kericche. Johannes Joice, als. Joce.
8. Parl. at Westminster.	Johannes Cok. Warinus Sket.
12. Parl. at York.	William Austin. Augustine de la Faleyse.
12. Parl. at York.	The same.
16. Parl. at York.	William Austin. Johannes Cok.
19. Parl. at Westminster.	Johannes Cok. Johannes de Faleyse.

EDWARD III.

1. Parl. at York.	William Austin. Johannes Cliff.
4. Parl. at Winton.	Robertus Portman. Thomas le Poer.
4. Parl. at Westminster.	Johannes de la Faleyse. Tho. filius Willielmi.
5. Parl. at Westminster.	John de Cliff. Thomas Austin.
5. Parl. at Westminster.	John de la Faleyse. Geoffrey Codoun.
6. Parl. at Westminster.	Thomas Austin. Mathæus Scot.
7. Parl. at Westminster.	Mathæus Scot. Johannes Cliff.
9. Parl. at Westminster.	 illegible.
11. Coun. at Westminster.	Thomas Austin. Augustine Ille. Walter le Walleyns.
12. Parl. at Westminster.	Mathæus Scott. Robertus Cliffe.
14. Parl. at Westminster.	William Austin. Robertus de la Cliffe.
14. Parl. at Winton.	Robertus de la Cliffe.
15. Parl. at Westminster.	Mathæus Scott. Thomas Austin.
17. Parl. at Westminster.	Johannes Cook. William Austin.
17. Parl. at Westminster.	William Austin. John Coks.
20. Parl. at Westminster.	Stephanus Gerrad. Thomas Austin.
21. Parl. at Westminster.	Thomas Austin. Mathæus Scott.
36. Parl. at Westminster.	Ballivi nullum dederunt responsum.
45. Coun. at Winchester.	John Astell. Asthell.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 46. Parl. at Westminster. | Petrus Codoun. Johannes Bagg. |
| 47. Parl. at Westminster. | John Bagg. Petrus Codoun. |
| 50. Parl. at Westminster. | Ballivi nullum dederunt responsum. |

RICHARD II.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Parl. at Westminster. | Thomas Abot. John Hunt. |
| 2. Parl. at Westminster. | illegible. |
| 6. Parl. at Westminster. | Petrus Codoun. Hugo de Thorp. |
| 7. Parl. at New Sarum. | Petrus Codoun. Petrus Helmeth. |
| 9. Parl. at Westminster. | Augustinus Williamson. Johannes Randeson. |
| 10. Parl. at Westminster. | Petrus Gudon. Hugo Thorp. |
| 11. Parl. at Westminster. | Augustin Knight. Richard Woodward. |
| 12. Parl. at Cambridge. | Peter Codoun. John Bagg. |
| 13. Parl. at Westminster. | Petrus Gudon. Robert Rincton. |
| 16. Parl. at Westminster. | Robert Cooke. Augustin Knight. |
| 18. Parl. at Westminster. | William Chock. Robert Codoun. |
| 20. Parl. at Westminster. | Petrus Helmeth. Nicholas Gody. |

HENRY IV.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Parl. at Westminster. | Petrus Codoun. Petrus Helmeth. |
| 3. Parl. at Westminster. | Cedula amissa. |
| 11. Parl. at Westminster. | Petrus Codoun. William Barber. |

HENRY V.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Parl. at Westminster. | Thomas Clark. Thomas Brantham. |
| 1. Parl. at Leicester. | Nicholas Barbour. Philip Canon. |
| 2. Parl. at Westminster. | Thomas James. Philip Canon. |
| 3. Parl. at Westminster. | Breve et cedula mancæ sunt. |
| 8. Parl. at Westminster. | Nicholas Barbour. Philip Canon. |
| 9. Parl. at Westminster. | Robert Codoun. William Barbour. |
| 9. Parl. at Westminster. | Johannes Lewk. Nicholas Barbour. |

HENRY VI.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2. Parl. at Westminster. | Johannes Lewk. Thomas Brampton. |
| 4. Parl. at Leicester. | Robert Codoun. John Pollard. |
| 6. Parl. at Westminster. | Johannes Lewk. Thomas Russell. |
| 6. Parl. at Westminster. | John Pollard. Richard Russell. |
| 8. Parl. at Westminster. | John Pollard. Henry Beaumont. |
| 9. Parl. at Westminster. | Johannes Lewk. Richard Codoun. |
| 11. Parl. at Westminster. | Johannes Moreff. John Pollard. |
| 13. Parl. at Westminster. | Robert Thorp. Nicholas Spicer. |
| 14. Parl. at Westminster. | The same. |
| 15. Parl. at Cambridge. | John Debenham. |
| 20. Parl. at Westminster. | Reginaldus Wilde. Robert Codoun. |
| 27. Parl. at Winchester. | Nicholas Parker. Richard Codoun. |
| 28. Parl. at Westminster. | Johannes Gure. Richard Shutting. |

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

29. Parl. at Westminster.	William Jenney. Robert Codoun.
31. Parl. at Reading.	Thomas Peers. Richard Shutting.
38. Parl. at Coventry.	John Pollard. William Mayfield.

EDWARD IV.

7. Parl. at Westminster.	John Allyn. John Strawnge, als. Stradough.
12. Parl. at Westminster.	William Rabbet. William Styward.
17. Parl. at Westminster.	Edmund Jenney, Arm. Robert Bredes, Arm.

HENRY VIII.

A. D.	
1542.	Robert Brown. George Coppyn. ⁶²

EDWARD VI.

1547.	Robert Coppyn. John Harrison.
1552.	Francis Yaxley. Robert Coppyn.

MARY.

1553.	Robert Coppyn. Nicholas Harborough.
1554.	Robert Browne, Esq. George Jerningham, Esq.

PHILIP AND MARY.

1. Parl. at Westminster.	Robert Browne.
2 and 3. Parl. at West ^r .	George Saxmundham. Andrew Greave, Gent.
4 and 5. Parl. at West ^r .	Thomas Peyton. John Browne, Gent.

ELIZABETH.

A. D.	
1558.	John Mulwich. John Browne.
1563.	Robert Hare, Esq. Robert Coppyn, Esq.
1571.	William Humberstone, Esq. Arthur Hopton, Esq.
1572.	Robert Coppyn, on whose decease, Godfrey Foljambe, Gent. Richard Stone, Gent.
1585.	Walter Dunch, Esq. Anthony Wingfield, Esq.
1586.	Anthony Wingfield, Esq. Arthur Miller, Gent.
1588.	Edward Hornynge, Gent. Walter Dunch, Gent.
1592.	Henry Saville, Esq. Thomas Corbet, Esq.
1597.	Arthur Atye, Esq. Clipsby Gawdy, Esq.
1601.	John Suckling, Esq. ⁶³ Francis Mingay, Esq.

JAMES I.

1603.	Sir Valentine Knightly, Knt. Philip Gawdy, Esq.
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⁶² George Coppin, Knt., of Dunwich, was buried in the south aisle of St. Martin's church, Westminster, in a handsome coffin, and rich monument. He was Clerk of the Crown in Chancery (Tann. Col.); and for the encouragement of the British fishery, he subscribed £200 towards the building of busses. (MSS. Ames.) Gardner, p. 89.

⁶³ Afterwards principal Secretary of State, and father to the Poet Suckling.

A. D.

1614.	Sir Robert Yaxley, Knt. Edmund Doubleday.
1620.	Clement Coke, Gent. Thomas Beddingfield, Gent.
1623.	Sir John Rous, Knt. Sir Robert Brooke, Knt.

CHARLES I.

1625.	Sir John Rous, Knt. Sir Robert Brooke, Knt.
1625.	Sir John Rous, Knt. Thomas Beddingfield, jun., Esq.
1628.	Sir Robert Brooke, Knt. Francis Winterton, Gent.
1640.	Henry Coke, Esq. Anthony Bedingfield, Esq.
1640.	The same.

COMMONWEALTH.

1649.	Robert Brewster, Esq.
1654.	Robert Brewster, Esq.
1656.	Francis Brewster, Esq., returned.
1658-9.	Robert Brewster, Esq. John Barrington, Esq.

RESTORATION.

1660.	Robert Brewster, Esq. John Barrington, Esq.
1661.	Sir John Rous, Knt. Henry Bedingfield, Esq. Sir Thomas Allen, in the place of Rous, deceased.
1670.	Sir John Pettus, Bart. Richard Coke, Esq.
1677.	Sir Philip Skippon, Knt. Thomas Allen, Esq.
1678.	Sir Philip Skippon, Knt. Sir Robert Kemp, Bart.
1679.	The same.

JAMES II.

1685.	Hon. Roger North. Thomas Knyvett, Esq.
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WILLIAM AND MARY.

1688.	{ Roger North, Esq. Sir Thomas Allen, Bart. Sir Philip Skippon, Knt. Sir Robt. Rich, Bart. } double return.
1689.	Sir Robert Rich, Bart. Sir Philip Skippon, Knt. John Bence, Esq., in place of Skippon, dead.

WILLIAM III.

1695.	Sir Robert Rich, Bart. Henry Haveningham, Esq. ⁶⁴
1698.	Sir Robert Rich. Sir Charles Blois, Bart., in place of Rich, dead. Henry Haveningham, Esq.
1700.	Sir Charles Blois, Bart. Robert Kemp, Esq.
1701.	The same.

⁶⁴ It appears from the town records that Roger Woods and John Bence, Esqrs., had been returned by twenty-five of the electors, who drew up a case, showing that Sir Robert Rich and Mr. Haveningham had been unduly elected; that riots had, in consequence, taken place, and that the walls of the Town House had been broken. They failed, however, in proving their allegation.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE

A. D.

ANNE.

1702.	Sir Charles Blois, Bart.	Robert Kemp, Esq.
1704.	Sir Charles Blois, Bart.	John Rous, Esq.
1707.	Sir Charles Blois, Bart.	Robt. Kemp, Esq. (not duly elected.)
1710.	Sir Richard Allen, Knt.	Daniel Harvey, Esq.
1710.	Sir George Downing, Bart.	Richard Richardson, Esq.
1713.	Sir Robert Kemp, Bart.	Sir George Downing, Bart.

GEORGE I.

1714.	Sir Robert Rich, Bart.	Colonel Charles Long.
1721.	Sir Robert Rich, Bart.	Edward Vernon, Esq. ⁶⁵ Sir George Downing, Bart. Sir John Ward, Knt., (dead.) John Sambrooke, Esq.; (double return.)

GEORGE II.

1727.	Sir George Downing, Bart.	Thomas Wyndham, Esq.
1732.	Sir George Downing, Bart., K.B.	Sir Orleando Bridgman, (feigned dead.) William Morden, Esq.
1741.	Sir George Downing, Bart., K.B.	Jac. Gerrard Downing, Esq.
1747.	Sir George Downing, Bart., K.B.	Miles Barne, Esq.
1749.	Sir Jacob Gerrard Downing, Bart.	Sir George Downing, dead.
1754.	Sir Jacob Gerrard Downing, Bart.	Alexander Forrester, Esq.

GEORGE III.

1761.	Henry Fox, Esq.	Sir Jacob Gerrard Downing. Eliab Harvey, in place of Fox, Lord Holland; Miles Barne, Esq., in place of Downing.
1768.	Gerrard William Vanneck, Esq.	Miles Barne, Esq.
1774.	The same.	Barne Barne, Esq., son of the last member, in place of Miles Barne.
1780.	Sir Gerrard William Vanneck, Bart.	Barne Barne, Esq.
1784.	The same.	
1790.	Barne Barne, Esq.	Joshua Vanneck, Bart.
1791.	Miles Barne, in the place of Barne Barne,	appointed a Commissioner of the Tax Office.
1796.	Joshua, Lord Huntingfield.	Snowden Barne, Esq.
1801.	The same.	
1802.	The same.	
1806.	The same.	
1807.	The same.	
1812.	Michael Barne, Esq.	Lord Huntingfield.
1818.	Michael Barne, Esq.	William Adam Mackinnon, Esq.

⁶⁵ Elected for Dunwich and Penryn: declared for the latter.

	GEORGE IV.	
A. D.		
1820.	Michael Barne, Esq.	George Henry Cherry, Esq.
1826.	Michael Barne, Esq.	Andrew Arcedeckne, Esq.

	WILLIAM IV.	
1830.	Frederick Barne, Esq.	Andrew Arcedeckne, Esq.
1831.	Frederick Barne, Esq.	Earl of Brecknock.

THE CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS HOUSES.

The existence of fifty-two churches in Dunwich is one of those fictions with which tradition and romance have invested its history. In the time of Edward the Confessor, one church only, dedicated to Fœlix, the first Bishop of the see, who was probably its founder, was then subsisting: a fair argument against the great extent or populousness of the Saxon city. In this church Fœlix was interred, although his remains were afterwards exhumed. Of this edifice no traces were to be seen centuries ago. At the Norman Survey, the number of churches had increased to three, which was afterwards extended to six, besides the hospital of St. James, and several chapels and alms-houses. By Robert Malet, lord of Eye, who held the manor of Dunwich at the Survey, all the churches then existing here, or which might be erected afterwards, were given to augment the revenues and patronage of his priory at Eye; and which house, according to Leland, had, at a very early period, a subordinate cell in this town. Of this, however, there appears no certain evidence. The six churches thus added to the possessions of this priory, were those of St. Leonard, St. John Baptist, St. Martin, St. Nicholas, St. Peter, and All Saints: those of St. Michael and St. Bartholomew, said by the register of Eye to have been swallowed up by the sea before the year 1331, are mentioned in no other record, and may be considered of very doubtful existence. Their names do not occur in the Norwich Domesday Book, made before that period. The Priory of Eye possessed, likewise, a valuable temporal estate here; for the constituted eleemosynary gifts to the monks of that house amounted to £12 per annum, even so early as the year 1287,—a very considerable revenue at that period. Dunwich also contained, before the Reformation, a preceptory of Knights Templars, a convent and church of Gray Friars, and a house of Dominicans,—so that the monastic orders must have enjoyed no inconsiderable possessions here.

The Abbot and Monks of Ely were also entitled to an annual payment from the men of Dunwich, of one mark and twenty-four thousand herrings. Their claim to this not invaluable revenue seems to have originated in a grant from the Crown; for in the tenth of King Henry III., when there appears to have been an arrear due to the monks, a day was granted to the inhabitants to show cause why it had not been paid.

"Homines de Dunwich habent diem in crastino Scē Trin. ad respond. monachis de Ely de allec. quod eis debent. p. ann. *de elemosinā regis*." ⁶⁶ The grant, however, was conferred on the Abbot and Monks by Henry I., because Hervey, first *Bishop* of Ely, who presided over his see from 1109 to 1131, by his charter, divided the possessions of the church of Ely between the Bishop and the Monks, when the claim due from Dunwich was assigned to the latter. ⁶⁷ The revenue thus transferred to these ecclesiastics was confirmed to them by the papal charters of Gregory IX., anno 1229; of Innocent IV., in 1246, and Nicholas III., in 1279. ⁶⁸

In the account of William de Rothing, of the issues of the town of Dunwich, in 1287, is the payment of one mark and 24,000 herrings, to the monks of Ely. But this rent, from the decreasing trade of the town, or other causes, seems to have been irregularly paid, as is shown by various mandates, issued by succeeding monarchs, to the Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, to distrain for the same. Of the Abbot's manor of Alneterne, I find no other mention than that in Domesday.

THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD

is thought by Gardner to have stood eastward of St. John's, and to have been early lost by the sea. In the Book of Ecclesiastical Institutions, kept at Norwich, are no names of chaplains serving this cure, but Gardner gives the representation of the oblong seal of "Richard, Priest of St. Linnart," to which he assigns the date of 1334. The impress is an *Agnus Dei*, couchant and regardant. Roger Crystepen gave a piece of land, situated in this parish, to the Prior and Convent of Eye, for the good of his soul, &c., by deed, dated Friday, the feast of St. Hilary, A. D. 1270 octavo; testibus, Hugon Joseph, August, Clerico, Roberto de Sefend, Gaufrido Codun, Huberto le Tanner, Petro Hermer, et pluribus aliis. ⁶⁹ In a will, the testator devised his house in the parish, anciently St. Leonard's. ⁷⁰ This church was appropriated to the Priory of Eye.

Prior de Eye habet eam in proprios usus, et facit deservire ecclia. per capellandum secularem. Estimatur ad viij marc. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia per ann. ii^s. Norwich Domesday.

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST.

This fabric, which was large, and stood by the great market-place, in the centre of the town, ⁷¹ was a cross-aisled church with a central tower. ⁷² In the year 1510, a jetty

⁶⁶ Harl. MSS. No. 30.

⁶⁸ Cole's MSS. vol. xlv. p. 172.

⁷¹ Idem.

⁶⁷ Bentham's Hist. of Ely, pp. 133, 134.

⁶⁹ Gardner, p. 47, from Tanner's Col.

⁷⁰ Idem.

⁷² Harl. MSS. ut supra.

was built before it to arrest the assaults of the sea.⁷³ The last institution made to it was in 1537, at which time it must have been in a precarious situation, as the parishioners pulled it down about three years afterwards, to save the materials from falling over the cliff, which was then washed away by the waves, almost to the walls. In the chancel was a large grave-stone, which, when raised, discovered a stone coffin, wherein lay the corpse of a man, which fell to dust when stirred. Upon his legs were a pair of boots piked like crakows; and on his breast stood two chalices of coarse metal. He was thought to have been a Bishop of Dunwich.⁷⁴ In this church were the images of St. John Baptist, Mary Magdalene, and Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, with the guilds of St. John Baptist and St. Catharine.⁷⁵

Robert Hervey, of Dunwich, by will dated 20th February, 1487, desires to be buried in the church of St. John the Baptist, before the image of St. Anne, the mother of Mary: he leaves to the high altar of the same church, 3*s.* 4*d.*; also to the sustentation of the same church, 13*s.* 4*d.*; to the dole in the same church, 7*s.*; to the sustentation of the church of St. Peter, in Dunwich, 3*s.* 4*d.*; to the church of All Saints, 3*s.* 4*d.*; to the hospital of the Holy Trinity, called Maison Dieu, 20*d.*; to the hospital of St. James, Dunwich,; and to have a priest sing for his soul, and the souls of all his benefactors, for one year, in the church of St. John the Baptist aforesaid.⁷⁶ John Weybred, by will dated in 1499, and proved in 1501, left ten marks for a tabernacle for St. John, with this clause, "and yf it fortune the cherche to decay be adventure of see, to be disposed by my attornys where they think best."⁷⁷ Batil. Gosmere, by will dated 2nd February, 1510, gave towards building the pere ageyn St. John's cherche, forty shillings.⁷⁸ Another legacy was left the same year for this purpose. Nicholas Copping was buried in the body of this church, before the rood; and in 1538, Marg. Haliday was interred in the south aisle.⁷⁹ The north aisle was appropriated to St. Nicholas, who had an altar there. Margaret Meltoun, of Dunwich, by her will of the 1st of December, 1463, desires to be buried before this altar, in the church of St. John, and leaves to the high altar of the same, 3*s.* 4*d.*; to the sustentation of the said church, 6*s.* 8*d.*; to the church of All Saints, Dunwich, 2*s.*; to the Friars Minors, and the Friars Preachers, in the said town, each 2*s.*; to the Trinity church, Dunwich, 2*s.*; and appoints Sir John Saxmundham, Rector of St. John's church, one of her executors.⁸⁰ Gardner mentions an "Augustinus, parsona" of this church, which it appears was not appropriated to the Priory of Eye, though that monastery held the patronage. In 1519, Marg. Lymbalds was buried, by her desire, in the "isle of St. Nicholas."

⁷³ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.⁷⁴ Weever's Funeral Mon.⁷⁵ Gardner, from Tanner.⁷⁶ Ex orig. pen. W. S. Fitch, Arm.⁷⁷ Gardner.⁷⁸ Idem.⁷⁹ Idem.⁸⁰ MS. Fitch.

VICARS OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST.

Vicars.	Date.	Patrons.
Joes de Langton	1340	The King, raone temp. de Eye.
Robert de Malton	1348	Id.
Walter Ubbeston	1350	Id.
Richard Almota	1361	Prior and Convent of Eye.
Symond Bayfield, de Hockeryng .	1384	The King.
Joes Halle	1392	Prior and Convent of Eye.
Joes Felys	1398	Id.
William de West Walton	1401	Id.
Joes Skarlet	1410	Id.
Nicholas Fuller	1414	Id.
William Gosmer	1432	Id.
Thomas Skypwith		
Robert Burnett	1477	Id.
Thomas Eynster	1491	Id.
Richard Feryhe	1515	Id.
George Holtby	1535	Id.
William Syward	1537	Id.

Prior de Eye est patronus ejusdem. Estimatio illius præter portionem vi marc. Portio prioris de Eye in eadem x marc. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia per ann. ii^s. Norwich Domesday.

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN.

This benefice was a rectory, and is thought to have stood on the east side of the town.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Joes de Dereby	1308	Prior and Convent of Eye.
Roger de Blowere, or Bloivere . .	1313	Id.
Adam de Foxle	1316	Id.
Petrus de Morpayn	1333	Id.
Joes de Stanhill	1334	Id.
Joes de Thorndon		Id.
Nicholas de Specteshall	1335	Id.

Prior de Eye est patronus illius. Estimatur ad vi marc. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia per ann. ii^s. Norwich Domesday.

Gardner mentions a William de Blithborough, Sub-deacon, as Rector of this church in 1318, and makes John de Stanhill identical with John de Thorndon. I have followed, however, in my list of incumbents here, the Institution books at Norwich, against which, I presume, there is no appeal.

THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

This church was also a rectory, and is said by Gardner to have stood twenty rods south-east of the convent of Black Friars. We learn from the old manuscript account of Dunwich, before quoted, that the edifice belonged to the largest parish in the town, and was cross-aisled, with a central tower. I find no institution to the benefice after the year 1352, soon after which period it was devoured by the sea. A portion of it, however, for some years formed the key-stone of a window in a house belonging to the town, and is now preserved as a relic of by-gone days.⁸¹ It is thus inscribed:

Se Nicholae ora pro nobis.

RECTORS OF SAINT NICHOLAS.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Alexander de Beccles	1301	Prior and Convent of Eye.
Joes Gleyherd, de Chilmark . . .	1317	Id.
Thomas de Waterbeach	1322	Id.
Joes de Baldeswell	1324	Id.
Adam de Suthholt	1329	Id.
Roger de Hecham ⁸²	1331	Id.
Thomas de Sterston . . .	1352	The Bishop, by lapse.

Prior de Eye est patronus illius. Estim. ejusd. præter portionem vi marc. ds. Portio prioris de Eye in eadem xiiij^s. iij^d. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia ii^s.—Norw. Domesday.

The last traces of the cemetery of this church were washed away by the sea, in 1740.⁸³

THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER

was a rectory, and stood about sixty rods north-east of All Saints.⁸⁴ It was visited on the 9th of April, 1643, by Dowsing, whose journal contains the following notice of “superstitious pictures and ornaments” which he found therein. “Dunwich.—At Peter’s parish, 63 cherubims; 60 at least of JESUS, written in capital letters, on the roof; and 40 superstitious pictures; and a cross on the top of the steeple. All was promised by the churchwardens to be done.”

This church, by reason of the proximity of the sea, which daily threatened its overthrow, was by the agreement of the parishioners, in 1702, stripped of its lead, timber,

⁸¹ It is now in the possession of J. Gooding, Esq., of Southwold.

⁸² Joes de Methwold is mentioned as chaplain of this church at the same period.

⁸³ Gardner, p. 49.

⁸⁴ Idem.

bells, and other valuable materials. The bare walls which were left, fell over the cliff, as the waves undermined it.⁸⁵ John Deye, the printer, was a native of this parish. The following persons were buried in this church, as appears by their wills. John Melton, buried in 1481 "in the new ele." Nicholas Casson, in "the north isl," 1510. A. Richardson, before the "awter of the Trynyte," 1518. Robert King, in "the north isl," 1521. William Jenew, in the church, 1524. William Boys, in the "aley" in the midst of the church, before the cross, 1535. Peter Shelley, in the church, 1537. Baty Alexander, in the church porch, 1558. Margaret Copping, 1574. Margaret Girdler, in the church porch, 1598. Robert Sharparew, by will dated 1st May, 1512, left to the new building of the chancel, 6s. 8d. In the north aisle of this church was an altar, dedicated to St. Nicholas, the favourite and patron saint of fishermen. Margerie Barnard was buried in this chapel in 1537. Robert King, by will dated in 1525, says, "I will and do give to Jhesus Gilde, in St. Peter's parish, £ 3. 14s. 4d."⁸⁶ The churchyard of this parish was swallowed up by the sea, not more than twenty years before Gardner wrote his history, when the "remains of the dead were seen sticking on the sides of the cliff."

RECTORS OF ST. PETER.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert de Creike	1303	Prior and Convent of Eye.
Roger le Broceour, de Eye . .	1308	Id.
William de Ponte Audemero . .	1314	Id.
William de Brom	1315	Id.
Adam de Blogate	1323	Id.
Adam de Sutholt	1328	Id.
Joes del Pertre ⁸⁷	1329	Id.
Radulp. Hildercle	1381	The King.
Joes Saxmundham	1432	The Bishop, by lapse.
Richard Strangeman	1473	Prior and Convent of Eye.
Joes Frossynelle	1473	Id.
William Eglyn	1522	Id.
Thomas Whyte	1541	The King.
William Jamys		
Robert Walkinson, cur. . . .	1593	
Clement Bacon	1609	The King.

Prior de Eye est patronus illius. Estimatio ejusdem præter portionem indecimata vi marc. Portio prioris de Eye in eadem indecimata xxvi^s. viij^d. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Rector solvit synodalia per ann. ii^s.—Norwich Domesday.

⁸⁵ Gardner.⁸⁶ Gardner, from Tanner's MSS.⁸⁷ Gardner calls him John at the pear-tree at Mells, priest.

THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

This benefice was appropriated by the convent of Eye, and served by a secular priest, or chaplain. It is the only sacred fabric in the town of which any portion remains, except a new chapel, which will be presently noticed.



In its original plan it comprised a nave, separated from a north aisle by octangular shafts, a chancel, and a square tower at the west end. As stated in a previous page, it was dismantled about seventy years since by the parishioners, for the sake of the bells and lead. It was probably the least imposing fabric in the town. It failed, however, to escape the visit of Dowsing, who tells us he found at "Allhallows, 30 superstitious pictures and 28 cherubims, and a cross on the chancel." If we may judge by the shafts, which separated the nave of this church from the aisle, the fabric was erected about the year 1350; though it appears from legacies bequeathed in several wills, that the latter was re-edified in the reign of Henry VIII. It seems, however, not to have been commenced in 1527, for William Rowlande, by his will, dated 24th July, 1527, bequeaths towards "a newe ele, yff it may be born, ten pounds;" and Robert Lockhod, in January of the same year, says, "I geve to the makying of the ile four marks." It must have been nearly completed in 1535, for on the 27th of November in that year, John Nycolson left "towards the covering of the newe ele ten pounds," and "to the same ele for pathyng (paving) tyle, 5 marks." Margerie Brooke, also, in 1535, gave "to makying a new wyndow in the newe ele, 53s. 4d." It would appear to have been soon after appropriated to the reception of the corporation of the town, for Gardner says, "in this isle were magisterial seats, decorated with curious carved work, resembling them in Southwold church; the windows adorned with painted glass, which the glazier, without regard to it, or the founder, brake to pieces." This aisle was pulled down, by faculty, in 1725. The lead of the roof, with other materials, was sold by John Shipman

and Francis Swatman, churchwardens, and the grave-stones employed in the foundations of the wall then raised to block up the ancient arches. Many plates of brass, inscribed to the memory of persons interred within the aisle, were also embezzled and sold. The great east window of the chancel was put in about the middle of the fifteenth century, for John Lewk, by his will, in 1451, leaves a bequest to complete it. "Item lego fabricæ magnæ fenestræ ultra summum altare dictæ ecclesiæ, 6s. 8d." On the 23rd of April, 1531, Thomas Barfote left to the reparation of the church, towards the "new ile, 20 shillings." The fabric possessed a small estate, dedicated to its sustentation, which in the middle of the last century produced a rental of about four pounds per annum. This was probably the donation of Thomas Russell, who by his will, dated 20th March, 1494, makes the following bequest. "Also, I will that my pytyll, lyinge in the parische of All Seints, within the said toune, the whiche hathe ben sumtime off Richard Russell, my fathyr. I will that the same pytyll remayn to the sustentation of the paryshe cherch aforesaid; according to the last wyll and testament off Elyn Russel, my sister, now decessyd. And also, I will and requir, my feoffys that thei deliver off the said pytyll pesabyll possession and estat, whan so ever thei ben resonably required by the seid paryschonys of All Seints, according to this my last will." The church contained the image of St. Mary Magdalene and the guild of our Lady; for R. King, in 1521, says, "I will and do geve to the gild of our Lady in All Saints parish, in Donwyche, 20 shillings."⁸⁸ The church, with the exception of the north aisle, was entire, and in use, in Gardner's time, whose description, as that of an eye-witness, I here transcribe. All Saints church "is the only one in being where divine service is celebrated from Lady Day to Michaelmas, once a fortnight, and monthly the succeeding half year; the minister's stipend not exceeding twelve pounds by the year, exclusive of a small provisional allowance for refreshment, in consideration of his journey thither. The church is esteemed but mean, and built with flint and freestone, which old age has reduced to a tottering state, especially the chancel. The inside walls, too, are infected with an incurable spreading leprosy; yet it still retains some remains of grandeur by the roof, and antiquity by the grave-stones, which are wide at head and narrow at the feet."—"The tower, built of flint and freestones, with various decorations, is old, but pretty strong, and indifferently handsome; crowned with a battlement, each angle, supporting an angel, represented Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, and Uriel; whereof one is blown down, and destroyed. It is deprived of a clock, which formerly it enjoyed, but possesses three bells; the first or little bell cast in 1725; the second, 1678; and the third, 1626." He also gives the following admeasurements of this fabric:

⁸⁸ Gardner, from Tanner's MSS.

	Feet.		Feet.
The length of the aisle (nave)	91	Width	22
Chancel	40	„	21
Tower floor	16	„	10
	147		

These monumental inscriptions were remaining in the church in 1754.

On a brass plate with the effigies of a man and woman, with one son and six daughters.

Here Thomas Cooper, sūtyrn bayly of this town, inclosed is in clay,
Which is the resting place of fleash, until the latter day.
Of one sonne, and daughters six, the Lord hym parent made,
Ere cruel death did work his spight, or fickle life did fade.
Who deceased the xvij of Maye, in the yere of our Lord 1576.

On another brass plate was the following inscription :

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF ROBERT SPATCHETT, WCH WAS BAYLIFFE OF DUNWICH,
IN THE XXXI OF THE RAIGNE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH, TENN TYMES, TELL THE XXII OF
THE RAIGNE OF OUER SOVERAIGNE KING JAMES, WHO DECEASED THIS LYFE, THE 24 OF
OCTOBER, AN^o Dⁿⁱ 1624.

Near it was a tomb, about nine feet long, void of any memorial. The following persons were also buried in this church, as is shown by their wills, but of whom no monuments were remaining. Margerie Brooke, in the north aisle, 1535. John Nycolson, in the same, 1535. William Jamys, in the same, 1536. Willielmus Rabett, de Dunwich, buried in the church, by the side of Margerie his wife, in accordance with his will, dated 1st January, and proved 8th March, 1540. He left Isabel, his widow. Robert Butteler, buried in the church, 1558. Marget Chapman, buried, according to her will, at the south door, in the church-yard.⁸⁹ The church-yard of All Saints is still occasionally used as a burial-place, there being many grave-stones near the west wall, of a recent date.

CHAPLAINS OF ALL SAINTS.

Chaplains.	Date.	Patrons.
Rogerus Bettys		Prior and Convent of Eye.
Dominus Joes Overvyld		
Thomas Ederych	1555	

⁸⁹ Gardner, from Le Neve's Col.

Chaplains.	Date.	Patrons.
. Walkinson, curate	1593	
Clement Bacon	1627	
Robert Pabie (?)	1628	

Prior de Eye habet eam in proprios usus, et facit deservire ecclia. per capellandum secularem. Estimatur ad xvi marc. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia per annum ii^s. Norwich Domesday.

THE NEW CHAPEL OF ST. JAMES

stands at the north-west of the town, within the grounds formerly belonging to the Hospital of St. James, and owes its foundation and completion to the munificence of the Barne family. It is built in a substantial manner, though not in accordance with any style of ancient ecclesiastical architecture. It measures internally 62 feet in length, by 22 feet in width. It is a perpetual curacy, in the gift of Mr. Barne, but is not endowed with, nor possessed of, any glebe lands, messuages, tenements, tithes, or portions of tithes whatsoever, but has been recently augmented by £400 of Queen Anne's Bounty money. The earliest register here commences in 1672, and was brought from the old church of All Saints. It contains a mural monument to Michael Barne, of Sotterley, representative of the borough of Dunwich in four successive Parliaments, and formerly Lieut.-Colonel of the 7th or Queen's own regiment of Light Dragoons, in which he served as Commandant, under His Royal Highness the Duke of York, during the campaign of 1793–1794, in the Netherlands, and in the expedition to the Helder, in 1799. By his care, and principally by the aid of his liberal contributions, this chapel was erected, in the year 1830. He married Mary, daughter of Ayscoghe Boucherett, Esq., of Willingham, in the county of Lincoln, and died 19th June, 1837, aged 78. Arms: Barne impales, quarterly; 1st and 4th—Boucherett, az. a cock or; 2nd and 3rd—sab. a fess or between 3 asses argent. Ayscoghe.

CURATES OF ST. JAMES.

Curates.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert Howlett	1832	Lord Huntingfield and Michael Barne, Esq.
Richard Day	1839	Frederick Barne, Esq.
William Langstaffe Weddall	1843	Id.

THE CHAPELS

were dedicated to St. Anthony, St. Francis, and St. Katharine. The site of the former was swallowed up by the sea, at a very early period, and it is unknown in what part of the town it stood.

The chapel of St. Francis was situated between Cock and Hen Hills, and seems to have survived the fury of the ocean to share in the general dissolution of monastic establishments. It was suppressed in the year 1545, when a lease of the buildings, and a meadow attached, was granted to George Waller, for fifty-five years, at twenty shillings per annum, payable to the use of St. Peter's parish.

St. Katharine's chapel stood in the parish of St. John, and is thought by Gardner to have shared the fate of that of St. Francis. It had a guild, dedicated, I presume, to the patron saint. It would seem to have been a building of some condition, for in 1523, John Stone bequeathed to St. Katharine's chapel twenty shillings, "to help to buy a peyr of organs."

Richard Goldman, and John Halyday, were buried in this chapel.⁹⁰

THE PRECEPTORY OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

The history of this house, which the author of the *Index Monasticus* considers to have been the best endowed, and the most important of the four which flourished in this diocese, is necessarily obscure, the very Order being extinguished at an early period, and their lands and possessions transferred to others. Of the exact time at which the knights settled at Dunwich there is no record, but their house was certainly in existence here before the reign of King John, for in the Charter Rolls of the first year of that monarch's reign is the following *confirmation* made in their favour. "*Templarii et confirmatio terrar. et libertat. inter alia, Ritchindine, apud Dunwick.*"⁹¹ And in the eleventh of Henry III. is another charter,⁹² "*Templi fratres; inter alia, Richedone, cum p̄tin. apud Dunwick.*" There is also mention made of "*quidam mariscus apud Donewic, unde hoīes de Donwico solebant reddere p. ann. in firmâ suâ x^s. quos Dñus. Rex Johes dedit magro milicie Templi, in elemosinâ, et locati sunt eis ad secm x^s.*"

In the "*Taxatio Ecclesiastica*" of Walter Suffield, in 1252, the "*bona Templiariorum de Donewico*" were taxed at eleven shillings. Their house or preceptory was called "*Templum beatæ Mariæ et S. Johannis,*" and it once occurs as "*Hospitale beatæ Mariæ et S. Johannis, vocat. Le Tempil.*"⁹³ The church of this establishment is described as a fine structure, "vaulted over, and the aisles all leaded."—"It stood," says Gardner, "near Middle-gate Street, having Duck Street (Duke Street?) on the north, and Covent Garden on the south, distant from All Saints about fifty-five rods." It was endowed with many privileges for pardon, and possessed various houses, rents and lands, in the town and neighbourhood, and a manor, which appears to have

⁹⁰ Gardner, p. 53.

⁹¹ 1 Joh. p. 1, m. 34.

⁹² 11 Hen. III. p. 1, m. 29.

⁹³ Monast.

extended into the adjacent villages of Middleton and Westleton. The court of this lordship, called "Donwich Temple-court," was held annually on All Saints' day, November the 2nd, for the levying and collecting of its annual revenue. This manor paid 16*s.* 6*d.* fee-farm rent. In William de Rothyng's account of the issues of the town, in the year 1287, is mentioned the sum of ten shillings "militibus de Templo." Rymer mentions the following pension paid by this society, among the other outgoings, charged upon the Temple manor. Richard Osmend, chaplain, to receive annually, during his life, three-pence a day, for his food and maintenance, and twenty shillings a year for his clothing—*pro robâ suâ*—at the nativity of our Lord. For the which annuity he had given to the Templars of Dunwich, twenty-four pounds sterling. This annuity was purchased in the fifth of Edward II., the year previous to the dissolution of their Order; but whether it was afterwards paid by the Hospitalers at Battisford, to whom the manor and revenues of the Dunwich Templars were given, there is no evidence to show. The number of Knights resident at Dunwich is nowhere stated. The church of this establishment continued in use, and retained the name of the Temple, till the general dissolution of religious houses; for in 1450, John Moreff, of Dunwich, by his will dated December 4th, in that year, bequeaths to the church of the Temple 40 pence. And William Gosmere, of Dunwich, as appears by his will, proved at Blythborough on the 25th of July, 1510, gives 3*s.* 4*d.* to the Temple of our Lady in Dunwich. This house was finally suppressed in 1540, and its revenues fell to the Crown, where they remained till the fourth year of Queen Elizabeth, when they were granted as parcel of the possessions of the Preceptory at Battisford, to Thomas Andrews, Esq., to be holden of the Crown, as of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty, in free soccage, and not in capite. The grant is dated February 12th, 1561. King James I., by letters patent, dated 13th August, in the twentieth year of his reign, granted these possessions to Ellis Rothwell, Esq., who held his first court for the Temple manor on the 29th of December, 1622, and left it, with its estates, to Millicent, his widow, who afterwards sold them to Thomas Knivett, Esq., of Ashwelthorp, about the year 1628. Elizabeth, daughter of this Thomas Knivett, marrying Sir John Rous, of Henham, carried the Temple manor, &c., into that family. These were inherited by John Rous, Esq., who sold them to Charles Long, Esq., who, in turn, conveyed them to Miles Barne, from whom they have descended to Frederick Barne, Esq., of Dunwich House. The lordship is now styled "the manor of the Temple and the Holy Virgin." Its demesnes have been almost entirely swallowed up by the sea. What remain, amount to not more than two acres, which are situated near Mr. Barne's house, abutting upon the town ditch, and the sea cliff.

Gardner has given a seal (Plate II. fig. 5) which belonged to the Templars

at Dunwich. Its form is oval;—in the centre stands a figure, probably intended for the Virgin Mary, round which is inscribed

✠ AVE · MARIA · GRACIA · PLE ·

and a circular seal of Ralph, Priest of the Temple church, with a fleur-de-lis, round which is this legend :

✠ S. RADVLFI · D · TEMPLO.

Gardner has printed the rentals of the Temple manor for three years, taken from the collections of Le Neve. They contain very little of interest, but the rental of the first year in the series is transcribed as a specimen of the rest.

The Rentall of the Mannor of the Temple in Donwyche, in the county of Suffolke, there made and renewed the 24th daye of September, in the eight yeare of the reigne of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth.

Nicholas Buntinge, for certayne lande, now in the tennor of Robt. Baker	4 ^d .
William Scottson, of certayne lande, sometymes Carrabull's, and after, Perkeyne	7 ^d .
Thomas Skett, for certayne lande, late Reive	1 ^d . ob.
John Ffoster, for certayne lande	9 ^d .
Robert Serjant, and Thomas Milborne, in the right of his wyffe, for divers parcells of land	20 ^d .
For certayne land there, late George Tomson's, late William Beryes	4 ^d .
William Bulbrook, for rent of certayne lande	6 ^d .
Ambrose Rawley, for one barne, lette in the tennor of one Browne	ob.
John Wilson, for certayne lande theire, sometymes Meltons	3 ^d . ob.
Richard Ffrend, for certayne lands, late William Rabette	7 ^d .
Thomas Wychyngham, for certayne lande in the tennor of Marg. Ashley	1 ^d . ob.
Nycholas Ffylar, for the rent of a tenement, sometymes Jowes, and afterwards Ellis	12 ^d .
William Mason, for certayne land theire, late Robert Butler's	1 ^d .
Thomas Holiday, for two parcells of lande	17 ^d .
For two shoppes	8 ^d .
Christopher Jennye, for the rent of one parcell of land called Carter's	3 ^d .
The said Christopher, for the rent of one tenement	ob.
Ralf Buttler, for the rent of dyvers land, late in the tennor of William Wickingham	3 ^d .
Andrewe Greene, for the ferme of the Temple close, contayning 8 acars	24 ^s .
Robert Whyte, for rent of certayne lande	
Robert Buryman, for one tenement in Milgate Street, with a yard contayning one rod	
Jone Peke, late wyffe of Thomas Wilsone, nowe the wyffe of John—for certayne tenements	
Henry Mansfield, for land, late Thomas Mowser's	
William Bury, for one tenement in Myldgate Street	
John Bassett, for certayne lande in St. Jeames Street, contayning —	
For certayne lande, late Peter Boodwens	

The sum is 38^s. 2^d. ob.

The second rental is dated December 19th, 1622, when the manor belonged

to Mr. Rothwell, who was one of the Pages of the Bedchamber to King James I. The third rental contains the gathering of the rents for five years, ending, apparently, November 21st, 1645. The amount is £10. 6*s.* 6*d.*, for which Thomas Knivett, Esq., gives his receipt to Mr. John Skeet, the steward of the manor, allowing the following deductions :

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Leyd out to Mr. Paston	10	0
For the Stewards and Juries, and my dynner	5	0
Item to Seggs, for fying, and going of errants	1	6
Item my Fee	10	0

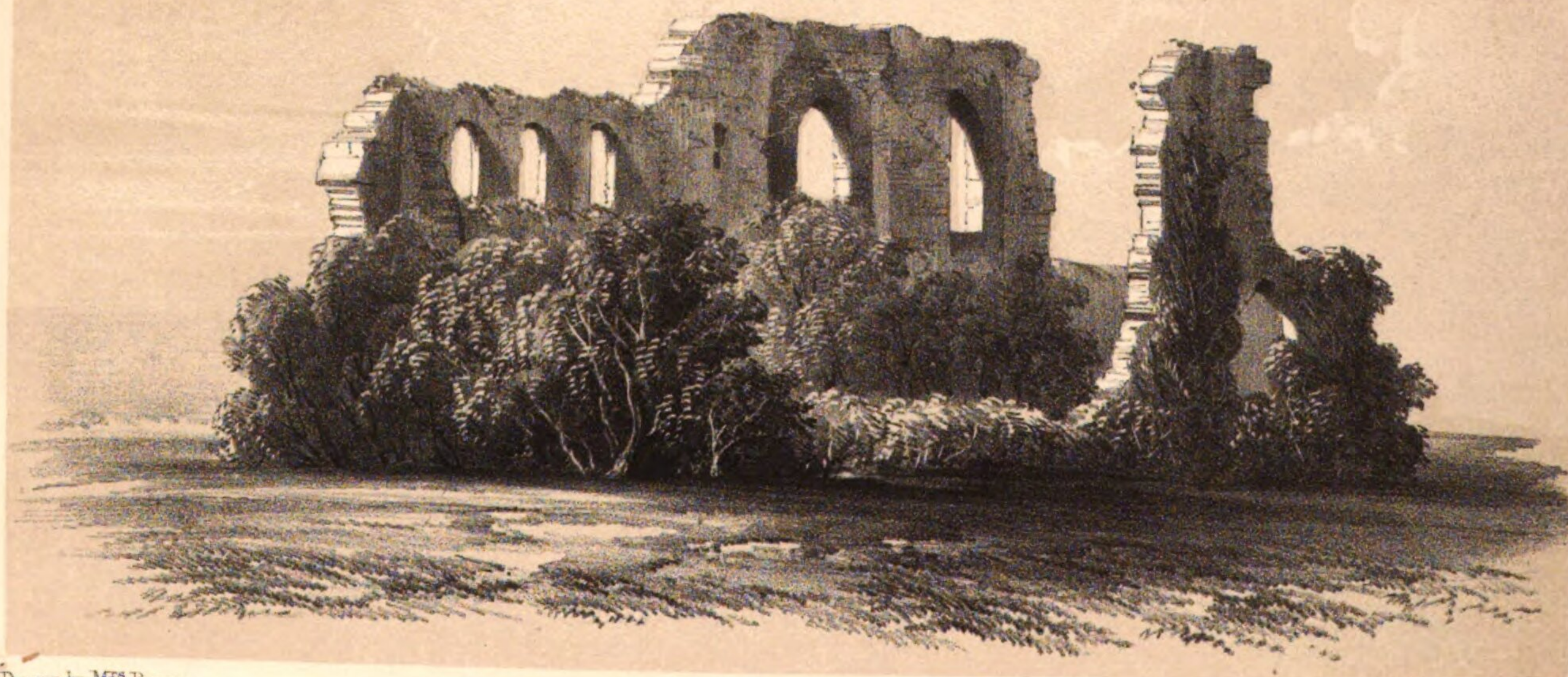
THE CONVENT OF FRANCISCAN FRIARS,

called also the Gray Friars, and the Friars Minors.—Of the history of this establishment, whose shattered pile forms the most attractive object in the “ruined city,” very little has descended to us. The sea, indeed, has spared its site, but its records are scattered or destroyed. Weever, quoting from the “painful collections of William Le Neve,” informs us that it was founded by Richard Fitz-John, and Alice his wife; and that the munificence of Henry III. augmented its immunities and estate. Whatever might have been its condition in this early period, its site was either changed or enlarged in the subsequent reign of King Edward I., who issued his writ of inquiry in 1289, to determine whether the proposed alterations would be prejudicial to his interests, if allowed to be made. It was returned by the escheator that it would not be injurious to the King to permit the corporation of Dunwich to grant the Friars Minors there a certain spot of ground to build their convent upon, situated between the king’s highway on the west, and the house of Richard Kilbeck on the north.⁹⁴ The site thus obtained by the friars contained about seven acres, lying westward of All Saints’ church, and projecting so far into the ramparts of the town on the east, as to interrupt its continuity. Here the monks rebuilt their church and conventual dwellings, and encompassed them with a stone wall, in which they placed three gates of entrance,—one on the east, now destroyed, and two, or rather a double-arched gateway, on the west. The latter, which has not altogether been despoiled of its features by the work of havoc which has levelled the greater portion of the convent itself, displays no strong or stately aspect. The ivy mantles in rich luxuriance, and gives a charm to its crumbling portals; but we look in vain for the embattled parapet and the frowning tower of strength.

⁹⁴ Esch. Suff. 18 Ed. I. n. 92.



NORTH VIEW.



Drawn by M^{rs} Barne.

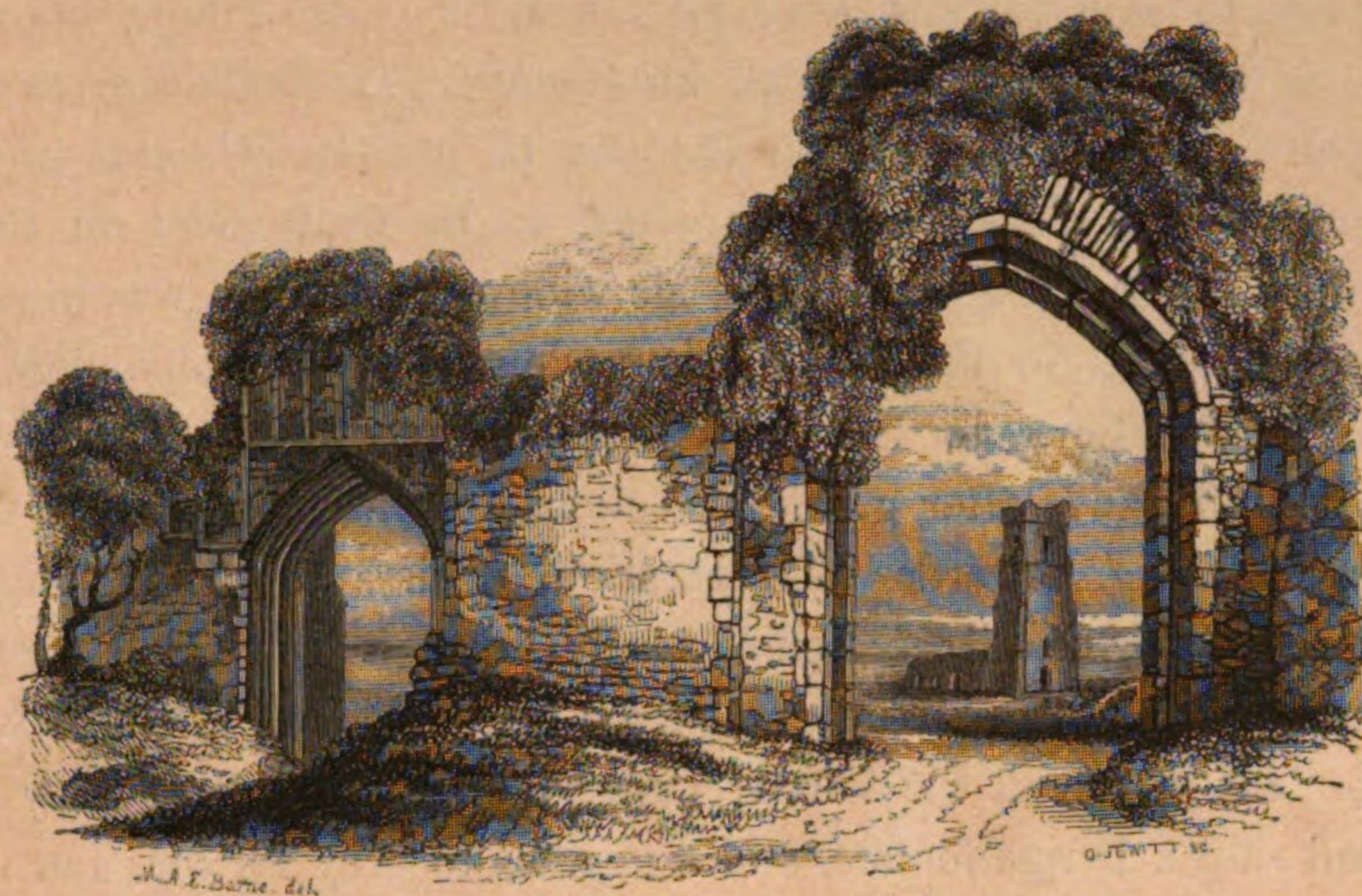
F. Bedford Litho: London.

SOUTH VIEW.

RUINS OF THE CONVENT OF FRANCISCAN FRIARS. DUNWICH.

London, Published by the Author.

Printed by Standidge & C^o.



Through the larger gateway is seen the shattered fabric of All Saints' church, in grey and sober distance; and on passing beneath its arch, the eye is arrested by a mass of ruins on the right, the loftier parts of which formed, perhaps, a portion of the conventual church. These are attached to a range of smaller buildings on the south, which have fallen into so dilapidated a state, that it is difficult to determine their particular uses. What was left of the convent by the zeal of the reformers appears to have been early converted to secular uses,—part was appropriated to a substantial residence, and a second portion fitted up as a hall, or chamber, for the transaction of corporation business. A third space served the purposes of the borough jail, against which was reared a tall unsightly screen of brick-work, which Gardner describes as “affording a handsome prospect.” This anomalous appendage was standing in 1780, as appears by a drawing of these ruins now before me; at which period the chancel of All Saints' church was still covered in, and a portion of the rafters in the roof of the nave was remaining. But these deformities, attached by tastelessness to the conventual buildings, have been some time removed, their walls freed from all but the clasp of the ivy, and the whole site preserved with most laudable care.

The conventual church seems to have received some extensive repairs not long before its destruction, for Katharine Read, by her will, dated on the 16th of June, 1516, gave “to Nicholas Wicet, or them that shall repair the church in the same place of Friars Minors, 3s. 4d.” John Moreff, of Dunwich, in his will of the 4th of December, 1450,⁹⁵ desires to be buried in this church, and bequeaths to its inmates

⁹⁵ Gardner erroneously gives the above date as 1472.

an hundred pence to sing for his soul, for the souls of his father, his mother, and Margaret, his wife, and for the souls of all his friends. He further gives to the Friars Minors forty pence for one recreate on the day of his funeral, and to twelve poor persons of Dunwich, one penny each, in alms, to be paid them on the same day in the church of St. Peter. Dame Matilda, his widow, whose will was proved in 1479, also desired to be buried in the Gray Friars church by the sepulchre of her late husband. Several donations to this fraternity are recorded. Thomas Walsh, of Dunwich, who died in 1467, after giving directions for his interment in their church, and bequeathing 13*s.* 4*d.* towards its reparation, devises to them "my pightell of oats, to be fallowed at my cost."⁹⁶ Again, Cicily Lacy, in 1472, left them an acre of land, be there more or less, to procure prayers for her soul; and Nicholas Cuddon gave them, in 1521, "my pytell at the Dame, under the condition that they shall yerely for ever kepe and sing a Dirige for me, and a masse; to pray for me, and my friends." The following persons were also buried in the church here. Sir Robert Valence,—the heart of Dame Hawise Poynings,⁹⁷—Dame Iden, of Ilketshall,—Sir Peter Mellis, and Dame Anne, his wife,—Dame Dunne, his mother,—John Francans, and Margaret, his wife,—Dame Bert, of Furnival,—Austin, of Cales,—John Faleyse, and Beatrix, his wife,—Augustine, his son,— Walexnes,—Sir Hubert Dernford,—Katharine, wife of William Phellip,—Margaret, wife of Richard Phellip,—Peter Codun,—John Lewl, before the window of St. Andrew,—Robert Jentyلمان, in 1525.

In Tanner's collections mention is made of John Lacey and Nicholas Bokenham, guardians of this house,—the latter presided in 1482,—and George Muse, warden, in 1505. A very fine and perfect seal, belonging to the superiors of this house, is represented in the collection of Dunwich seals, appended to this account,—*vide* No. 8. It is oval; in the centre is a friar kneeling, and praying to St. John. A label issues from his mouth, on which are inscribed these words:

S. Ioh. ora. p. me.

The circumscription is as follows:

Sigillu. guardiani. fratrum. minor. Dunewyry.

An imperfect engraving of an oval seal of this convent is given by Gardner,

⁹⁶ Ex test. orig.

⁹⁷ Gardner, at page 118, gives a representation of the circular part of a buckle, or fibula of brass, found by a workman in removing some earth from within the walls of the Gray Friars. It lay on the top of a small earthen vessel, which he broke into fragments, thinking it contained treasure. There is reason to believe that it was the very urn in which had been deposited the heart of Dame Hawise Poynings. The circumscription was of an usual character—*Ave. maria. gracia. plena.*

representing a ship under sail. At the prow is seated a King, and at the stern sits a Bishop with his mitre on his head, and a crozier in his left arm. The legend appears to be,

✠ *Sígillū . fr̄m . mīnor . Donewīcī.*

In 1754, on taking down an old house at Dunwich, another seal belonging to the Gray Friars was found, but the impress and legend are not described.⁹⁸ At the Dissolution of religious houses by Henry VIII., the site of this convent was granted to John Eyre, and his heirs, on the 20th of February, 1545. By an inquisition, taken at Ipswich, September the 28th, in the thirty-fourth of Elizabeth's reign, Robert Wroote, Esq., was found to die seized of the same, together with four parcels of land, and four messuages, in Dunwich, valued at £10 per annum, with the right of foldage in 296 acres of "bruery" in Dunwich and Westleton, and 75 acres of marsh, and two hills,—one called "Chappell hyl,"—the other called "Long hyl," in Dunwich and Westleton.⁹⁹

The site of the Friars Minors at Dunwich is now the property of Frederick Barne, Esq.

THE CONVENT OF DOMINICAN, OR BLACK FRIARS.

This order of monks, who are also called Friars Preachers, was instituted in 1206, and came into England in 1221. I have not discovered the precise period of their arrival at Dunwich, but it must have been very shortly after the latter date; for in 1259, a great dispute arose between the Friars Preachers of Norwich and those of their order at Dunwich, concerning the bounds of the jurisdiction of their respective convents, as to preaching, gifts, &c.; and in the house of the canons of St. Olave, at Herringfleet, it was referred to the arbitration of Brother William de Nottingham, then divinity reader of their order at Norwich. By this dignitary the matter was agitated at a chapter of the order held at Gloucester, when the boundaries of the convents were fixed by the course of the county rivers. The Friars at Dunwich, however, were to have all Mendham and Rushworth, on both sides of the Waveney, in which villages also they were to claim the temporalities, as well as the spiritualities, attached to their office.¹⁰⁰

The founder of the Dominican convent at Dunwich was Sir Roger de Holishe, Knt., who was buried within the walls of his church. The site of this establishment is described as distant from the Gray Friars one hundred and twenty rods. It must have been situated to the eastward of the last-mentioned house, for its precincts, which were

⁹⁸ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁹⁹ Idem.

¹⁰⁰ Blomefield.

encircled by a stone wall, were nearly destroyed by the sea before 1384, in which year attempts appear to have been made to remove them to Blythborough; but no evidence exists that the proposed migration ever took place.¹⁰¹ They appear to have struggled on, notwithstanding the assaults of the ocean, which has long since completely swept away every trace of their existence; not one stone of their convent being left on another. The convent was certainly still standing in 1512; for on the 1st of May in that year, Robert Sharparew, of Dunwich, bequeathed, by his will, to the convent of Friars Preachers in the same town, 3*s.* 4*d.* The site of this priory, or what might have remained of it at the Dissolution, was granted to John Eyre, in the thirty-sixth of Henry VIII., together with that of the Gray Friars. The following persons, who were of distinction in their day, appear to have been benefactors to these Dominicans, and were interred in their church: Sir Roger de Holishe, the founder,—Sir Ralph Ufford, and Dame Joan, his wife,—Sir Henry Laxiffeld, Knt.,—Dame Joan de Harmile,—Dame Ada Cravene,—Dame Joan Weyland, sister of the Earl of Suffolk,—John Weyland, and Joan, his wife,—Thomas, son of Robert Brews, Knt.,—Dame Alice, wife of Sir Walkelyn de Hardeshall,—Sir Walkelyn de Hardeshall. This knight, by his will, dated at “Wodebruge,” in 1376, and proved in 1377, leaves his body to be buried among the Friars Preachers of Dunwich, near Alice, his late wife. Austeyn Valens,—Sir Ralph Wingfield, Knt.,—Richard Bokyl, of Leystune, and his two wives,—Sir Henry Harnold, Knt., and Friar.

The common or convent garden, mentioned by Gardner as abutting upon Sea-field, might have been the garden once attached to this monastery. He informs us that as the sea made encroachments upon it, many human bones were discovered, and that part was washed away in the winter of 1740. When he wrote, a small piece of tilled land, belonging to the Dominicans, was still remaining.

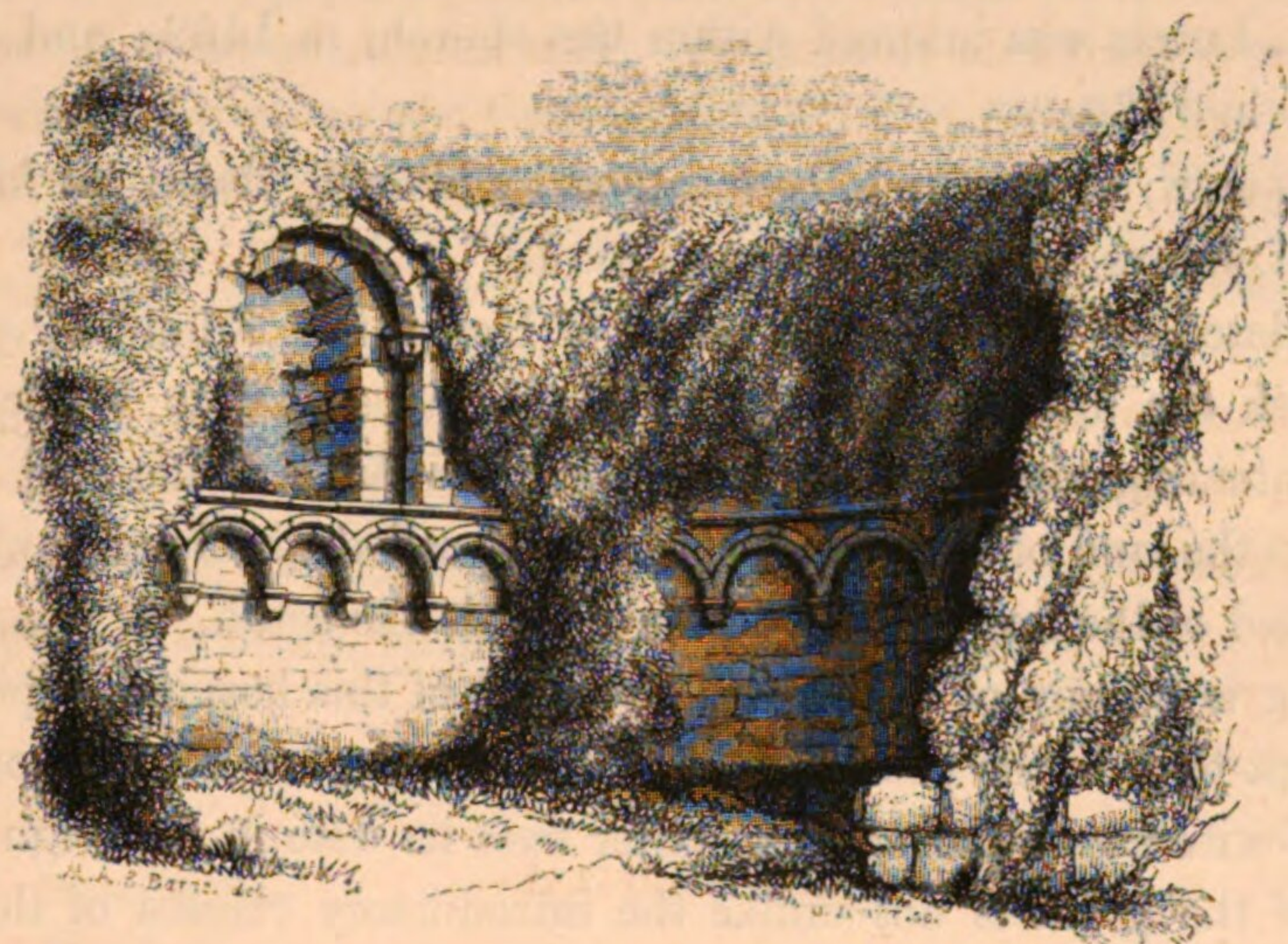
THE HOSPITALS.

The principal of these appears to have been that dedicated to St. James the Apostle, and appropriated to the reception of lepers. Mr. Blomefield, the historian of Norfolk, considers John, Earl of Moreton, afterwards King of England, to have been its founder, and it was certainly existing in the reign of Richard I. Martin ascribes its foundation, however, to Walter de Riboff, who appears rather as its principal benefactor, endowing both the church and hospital with considerable revenues. The society consisted of a master, and several leprous brethren and sisters. In Riboff's grant, mention is made of the former only, “*fratres domus leprosorum de Donewic;*” but in an indenture, cited

¹⁰¹ Rot. Pat. 8 Ric. II. m. 33. Pro priore fratrum predicator. de Donwico.

by Martin, sisters are also specified,—“*fratres et sorores hospitalis Sancti Jacobi de Donewyco.*” The church of this hospital is described in an old manuscript as “a great one, and a fair large one after the old fashion, and divers tenements, houses, and lands, to the same belonging, to the use of the poor sick and impotent people there.” It was of simple form, and without aisles, but comprising the tripartite division of nave, chancel, and sanctum sanctorum, like the primitive churches of the East.

“The whole building is 107 feet 7 inches in length. The nave is 60 feet 10 inches in length within, by 24 feet 6 inches in breadth, and was divided from the chancel by an arch. The chancel is 21 feet 10 inches in length, by 20 feet 9 inches in breadth, and the sides are ornamented with small intersecting arches of 22 inches radius, which is peculiar to Saxon and Norman architecture. The altar is divided from the chancel by an arch of 13 feet 6 inches span, and the span forms something more than a semi-circle of 18 feet 2 inches in diameter. The walls are also ornamented with small arches of 2 feet 6 inches in width; but they are not intersecting like those in the chancel part.”¹⁰²



The revenues of this hospital, which were formerly very considerable, fell into decay through the mismanagement of “evilly disposed covetous persons, which did sell away divers lands and rents from the said hospital,”¹⁰³ so that the large income it originally possessed, was in the year 1739 dwindled to £26 per annum, and in 1754 to £21. 19s. 8d. Of this rental, 40s. per annum was, at the last-mentioned period, the salary of the master; the residue being applied to the maintenance of three or four indigent people, who resided in an adjacent dilapidated house, which then formed all the remains of the establishment, except the roofless walls of the church. On the 30th of

¹⁰² Archæol. vol. xii. p. 166.

¹⁰³ Weever, from MSS. of Sir Simonds D'Ewes.

January, 1744, the repository of relics belonging to this church, and which had probably been concealed at the Reformation, was discovered in the sanctum sanctorum, and broken open: ¹⁰⁴ "near which," continues our informant, "as old people report, was the portraiture of a man, which continued there until the celebration of divine service ceased; which was about the time King Charles II. died, when the church fell into decay, and every thing therein was destroyed. One Mr. Armstrong preached there then." This image, which so unaccountably escaped the vigilance of our early Reformers, and the zeal of Dowsing, was probably that of the original founder of the church, or of St. James, the patron saint.

The seal of this hospital was circular, and large; being more than two inches in diameter. In the centre was placed a figure with a nimbus encircling its head, a crozier rested in its left hand, while the right was elevated; the legend—

✠ *Sigill. S̄act. Jacob. Donwiz.*

In 1455, J. Alyn was buried in the cemetery of St. James's hospital, according to his last will. R. Levott was interred within the church, in 1462; and John Bourn in the church-yard, in 1536.

Robert Sharparew, of Dunwich, bequeathed by his will, dated 1st May, 1512, "to the hospital of St. Jamys, in the same town, 3s. 4d."

By a deed, dated on Whit-Monday, third of Henry IV., Edmund Lyster, master of this hospital, with the brothers and sisters of this house, let to William Burnham a piece of land containing about five acres, between the lands of the said William; both parts abutting on the land of the lord of Modinbray, called Stubbing, towards the north, and above the land of the lord of Brandeston towards the south. ¹⁰⁵

The following is a copy of Riboff's endowment of this hospital, copied by Gardner from a manuscript then in the possession of J. Rivett, Esq., of Brandeston Hall. From the names of the witnesses attached, that writer fixes its date in the reign of King John. The preamble of the grant is not unlike the introductory clauses of that period, and confirms his conjecture: "pietatis intuitu" is a form very similar to the "intuitu Dei" which occurs in the very first line of John's celebrated deed of Magna Charta.

Notum sit universis Christi fidelibus, quod ego Walter de Ribof, causa dei, et pietatis intuitu, concessi, dedi, et presenti charta confirmavi ecclesiæ S. Jacobi, et domui leprosorum de Donewic, et Huberto, capellano, qui in predicta capella in vita sua ministrabit, et omnibus capellanis, qui in administratione ejusdem capellæ eidem succedent, pro anima H. de Cressie, et pro salute animæ meæ, et pro salute animarum predecessorum meorum, et successorum, et heredum, 40 acras terræ in territorio de Branteston S. Messuag. (?) Britwald, et totam terram de dominio meo quod simul adjacet, usque ad Marram de Saham; et quinque acras terræ versus Bradelhae, et acram prioris, et 1 pece terræ subter domum

¹⁰⁴ Gardner.

¹⁰⁵ Gardner, from Martin's Col.

Randulfi, et 1 pece terræ ante domum Frebert, et Stivelacre, quod permutavi cum R. Daneis; et dim. acr. terræ ad Sibihesge; et 3 rodas terræ super Hame, et unam acram prati ad Hameffen, versus Ketelburgh, et Popen-acre, et terram quam permutavi cum J. de Agnell ad pontem Dosewan, et 1 acram de terra quam Humfredus Faber tenuit, et ortus Godelune, et medietatem juxta domum Philippi Delahai, versus occidentem; et preterea 1 summam frumenti quolibet anno ad festum S. Michaelis, et de quolibet fornagio domus meæ qualiscunque fuit 2 panes, et de quolibet brassagio domus meæ 1 sextarium caervisiæ, et decimas molendinorum meorum.¹⁰⁶ Omnia autem supradicta in perpetuam elemosinam data predicto Huberto, et eidem in administratione prædictæ capellæ succedentibus, sub annua pensione 5 sol. et 1 cumb. frumenti, singulis annis, fratribus leprosis de S. Jacobi de Donewic ad festum S. Michaelis solvenda, presentis paginæ testimonio corroboravi; ita quod prædictus H. et qui eidem successuri sunt, uni fratri leproso de Donevic in prænominata capella necessaria perpetuo ministrabunt, et similiter uni leproso, quem ego vel heredes mei in sæpe dicta capella collocabimus necessaria providebimus, ita tum quod fratres leprosi de Donevic dimidiam partem honoris que ipse leprosus, quem ego, vel heredes mei, in sæpe dicta capella posuerimus, secum attulerit, sic retinebunt, et alia dicta pars penes predictam capellam remanebit. Et prænominatam capellam prænominato H. et succedentibus, et capellanis, fratres leprosi de Donewic warrantizabunt, vel ut propriam, et ut hæc donatio mea perpetuam obtineat firmitatem, eam sigilli mei oppositione confirmavi. Item capellanus, qui in administratione accedet, fidelitatem jurabit matriæ ecclesiæ de Branteston, scilicet, quod non procurabit, neque per se, neque per alium, quod prædicta ecclesia, sive in decimis, sive in provenientibus, vel in aliquo juris sui patiatur. Servientes, autem, qui sani fuerint ad sacramenta ecclesiastica percipienda, et oblationes suas faciendas, diebus festis ad matricem ecclesiam ibunt. Si autem mortui fuerint, corpora eorum in coemeterio matricis ecclesiæ sepelientur. Item pro parvis decimis, et oblationibus clausi prædictæ capellæ, dedi matriæ ecclesiæ de Branteston 2 peces prati, 1 pece in Redmeadow, et 1 pece juxta pratum ecclesiæ apud orientem. Hiis testibus, G. Archid. de Laestune; Abbate de Buttele, priore; R. Comes; W. de Frener; R. de Agnell; R. de Bloville; Hænc p. de Branteston; anus, presbit.; R. de Kettlebe; Hamelin, presb.; magis. Alen de Rinham; R. p. de Cransford; Willo de Angers; Willo Doget; Willo de Hoe, et multis aliis.

The decreased rental to which the ample revenues of this hospital had dwindled in the middle of the last century, arose from the following sources:

LANDS BELONGING TO ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL.

	£.	s.	d.
Heveningham	5	10	0
Brandeston	1	10	0
Dunwich	6	13	0
Carlton Colville	8	6	8
	£ 21	19	8

MAISON DIEU,

or God's house, was dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The date of its foundation is not recorded, but it is mentioned as an hospital in deeds as early as the reign of Henry III.

¹⁰⁶ He gives them a seme, or eight bushels of wheat, at Michaelmas, two loaves of bread from the oven, and a quart of ale from the brewhouse of his residence, wherever it may be, and the tenths of his mills.

It was in the patronage of the King, when its society consisted of a master and six brethren.¹⁰⁷ But sisters appear to have been admitted at a subsequent period, who are frequently noticed in old wills.¹⁰⁸ “Item volo quod omnia utensilia mea dividantur inter sorores de la Masyndieu.” Before its revenues fell into disorder, through the mismanagement of “ill-disposed rulers,” it enjoyed an ample estate, and various immunities. “The which Maison Dieu,” says Weever, “was an house of great privilege, and a place exempt; and there was a very little proper house, and a proper lodging for the masters of the same, for the time being, to dwell in.” Gardner adds, that “it was honoured with masters of good repute, one an Esquire, another a Master of Arts, &c.” In Tanner’s time, its estates had fallen into decay, “the whole revenues being no more than £13. 15s. per annum, as the minister of the parish informed him.” When Gardner published his History of Dunwich, they had decreased to £11. 17s., of which the master’s salary amounted to £2, the remainder being divided among a few poor persons who lived in the residence of the master, and a dilapidated old house adjoining, which were all that was left of its buildings, except a fragment of the south wall of the church. I find various legacies in old wills, left to this fabric under the name of the Trinity church. Margaret Melton, of Dunwich, in 1463, bequeathed “to the Trinity church, Dunwich, 2 shillings;” and in 1487, Robert Hervey left “to the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, called Maison Dew, 20 pence.” In 1455, is this bequest of Sibelle Francis: “Item lego le Mesyndieu ad fabricam ecclesiæ, &c.” The church was rebuilt or repaired about the year 1512, for Robert Sharparew, whose donations have been previously noticed, by his will of the 1st of May in that year, bequeaths “3s. 4d. to the reparation of the Mezndew;” and in 1527 occurs a legacy towards paving the church. Prynne¹⁰⁹ mentions a cross of peculiar sanctity belonging to this church, to which there used to be a great resort. The Abbot of St. Osyth, attracted by its virtues, abstracted this relic from the hospital, which he placed in his own church, but was compelled, with great reluctance, to restore. In 1596, when we may suppose the revenues of the house to have been already somewhat deranged, the master allowed Robert Aleyn, schoolmaster, twenty shillings a year, to teach the poor of this establishment.¹¹⁰ The small remaining estates of this hospital, and those of St. James, have now, for some time, been consolidated as a charity. They are placed under the government of a master, and applied for the support and relief of aged widows, and poor persons of the town of Dunwich; and especially such as are afflicted with insanity, or loss of speech, or labour under any peculiar disorder. The lands constituting the property of this consolidated charity consisted, for the most part, of detached pieces, which, taken separately, were of trifling value. These have been

¹⁰⁷ Tanner.¹⁰⁸ Idem.¹⁰⁹ Papal Usurpations.¹¹⁰ Town Records.

exchanged, wherever opportunity afforded; and being now brought into a more compact state, yield a greatly increased rental. The gross amount of lands and tenements in Dunwich is something more than £66 per annum. In Heveningham they produce £17, and in Ellough £10; making a total yearly income of above £93. In 1566, John Page, alias Baxter, by will, gave power to his executor to sell his estate at Carlton Colville, to the intent that the yearly sum of £3 should be paid to the town of Dunwich, for the poor thereof; and the sum of 40 shillings to the town of Laxfield, for a like purpose. For a long period the property has been in the possession, and under the joint management, of the officers of these two parishes. It consists of a farm-house, with outbuildings and 43 acres, 2 roods, 37 perches of land in Carlton Colville, and is let at £75 per annum, subject to some deductions on account of land-tax, and other outgoings. Laxfield receives four-ninths, and Dunwich five-ninths of the annual proceeds, which are carried to the general account of the chamberlains of the corporation, as part of the private revenues of that body; without any payment of £3 a year to the poor. The common seal of this house is oval, and large. In the centre are the arms of Henry III., surmounted by a triple cross, with two fleurs-de-lis jettant, on the lowest bar. Legend,

✠ SIGILLVM · FRATRVM · DOMVS · DEI · DE · DONEWICO.

THE ALMS-HOUSES

were all destroyed before Gardner's time, from whose history the following notice of them is transcribed:¹¹¹

"A. D. 1515, Sep. 6. Test. Petri Melton. I will that they doo bylde to or fowre housis, as it may be born of my goods, as nere the chersch yerd of Saint Peter's aforesaid, as they can purchase any ground therefor."

"1537. April 1. T. Petri Shelly. I will that the east ende of my house callyd Bollyants, shall remain to an almesse house for poor people to dwell in."

"1538. Jan. 30. I wyll, that myn executors shall buylde an howse in such place of Dunwich as they shall thynk that meetest for such poor folkes to dwell in."

"1556. Dec. 16. T. Johannis Barnett. Itm. I gywe and bequeth, after my wief's decease, my house and tenemente to the poor people in Dunwiche aforesaid; and that the chamberlainse of the said town, for the time beinge, shall let to fearme the said house to the best profyghte; and the money thereof comynge, to be delte to the said poore people, always at the feast of Ester; and the chamberlaynes to have for their pains xii pence."

Gardner records¹¹² the generosity of a gentleman, who, before the period of his

¹¹¹ Pages 98, 99.

¹¹² Page 99.

writing, had allowed twenty pounds a year for a master to instruct and educate the poor children of the town; but which bounty was then withholden. There is now a day-school well attended, supported principally by Frederick Barne, Esq.

EXPLANATION OF THE SEALS.

1. Represents the ancient corporation seal of the borough of Dunwich, granted, probably, by Edward III. The legend is **✠ Sígillum . balliborum . de . Donewíco.** The principal device is a royal head issuant from the hull of a ship; on either side of which is a star, and above it a star with a crescent. Harvey, in his *Suffolk Visitations*,¹¹³ made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, describing this seal, says, "This is the olde and ancyent seale of longe tyme used by the baylifs and burgesses of the borough and corporation of Dunwiche." The matrix of this lozenge-shaped seal is of brass, and now in the possession of Frederick Barne, Esq.

2. The modern seal of the corporation used in their courts of Admiralty, &c. With the exception of the shape, it differs little from the former. Legend, **Sígillum . Admirálitatis . Donewíco.**

3. Seal of the Hospital of St. James. Gardner (page 43, number 14) gives a seal much resembling this, but St. James holds a crozier in his left hand, instead of a cross, and the right hand is in a different position. Gardner's seal has also two fleurs-de-lis, instead of the escallop shells.

4. The brass matrix of this seal is in the possession of the Rev. Sterling Moseley Westhorp, of Sibton Vicarage. It appears to be the same as that represented in Gardner's map, and is very probably, if not certainly, the seal granted to the town by King John, when he gave it its first charter. The characters of the legend are as old as that period. The circumscription is **Sígill . Burgí . de . Donewí.**

5. The seal of Petrus de Normandebý, Rural Dean of Dunwich, anno 1343. Above the hull of the ship appears the name of this official, **Petrus.** The circumscription is **Decanus . de . Donewprí.**

6. The impression from a seal-ring found at Dunwich: the device is the letter R crowned with a coronet. Gardner has given a representation of this ring (Plate I. fig. 7).

7. A circular seal with an open crown surmounted by a fleur-de-lis. Legend, **S . subsidíi . Pannor . in . Com . Essex.** Gardner (Plate I. fig. 12) has given a seal, on which is a device very similar to this, but the legend thereon is **S . subsidíi . Pannor . in . com . Eboru.** This he takes to be the Alnager's seal,¹¹⁴ made in the

¹¹³ Lansdowne MSS.

¹¹⁴ The Alnager was a sworn officer, whose business formerly was to inspect the assize of woollen cloth, and to fix the seals appointed upon it for that purpose.



F. Bedford Litho. London.

DUNWICH SEALS.

London, Published by the Author.

Printed by Stansfeld & Co

reign of Henry VI., when an interchange of commercial relations was ratified between Dunwich and Hull. Gardner's seal was found at Easton.

8. The seal of the Gray Friars at Dunwich. In the centre is a monk in a devotional attitude, praying to St. John: from the lips of the devotee proceeds this legend: *S. Joh. ora. p. me.* The circumscription is, *Sigillu. Guardiani. fratrum. minor. Dunwycy.*

9. The seal of Ethilwald, or Weremund, Bishop of Dunwich, circiter 850. This relic "was dug up by a person in a garden, about 200 yards from the site of the monastery at Eye, who gave it to the child of a workman employed on a farm in his occupation. The child threw it on the fire, whence its mother rescued it, and retained it for Mr. Fenner, who has for many years been in the habit of searching for and of preserving objects of antiquity which have from time to time been found in the vicinity of that place. The seal appears to be of bronze, mitre-shaped, of two rows of arches, surmounted by a rude fleur-de-lis, and supported by nine wolves' heads in the interstices of the arches; the eyes formed of small garnets, of which one only remains, since its being recovered from the fire."

✠ SĪT · EDILVVALDI · EP—

Dugdale observes, that Edward the Confessor was the first in England who put his seal to a charter,—it was the foundation charter of Westminster Abbey,—according to the custom of the Normans, with whom he had been educated. This, however, seems, by the subsequent discoveries of the matrices of old Anglo-Saxon seals, especially this of Ethilwald, to be incorrect.¹¹⁵

Gardner has given a great variety of seals and curiosities discovered at Dunwich, which are now dispersed, if not lost. In the 'Archæological Journal'¹¹⁶ two interesting seals are mentioned as having been found here: the first is circular, apparently Flemish, upon which is represented an ecclesiastic kneeling before the Virgin and infant Saviour, with the following legend: ✠ S. G. P'PITI · ECCE · PPEND · (ET) DEBEQ · GN. Also a round privy seal, bearing the Holy Lamb. Legend, ✠ SIGILLVM · SECRETI.

MISCELLANIES.

"The mensuration of some places at Dunwich, taken by Mr. Gardner on the 17th of March, 1752.

				Perch.	Ft.
The length of Pales Dike from the cliff to the Gray Friars	.	.	.	133	13
„ Duck Street from the cliff to Pales Dike	.	.	.	33	7
„ Scott's Lane from the cliff to Pales Dike	.	.	.	41	13
„ Lane from the cliff to St. James' Street	.	.	.	41	13

¹¹⁵ Grimaldi's 'Origines Genealogicæ,' p. 80.

¹¹⁶ June, 1846, p. 165.

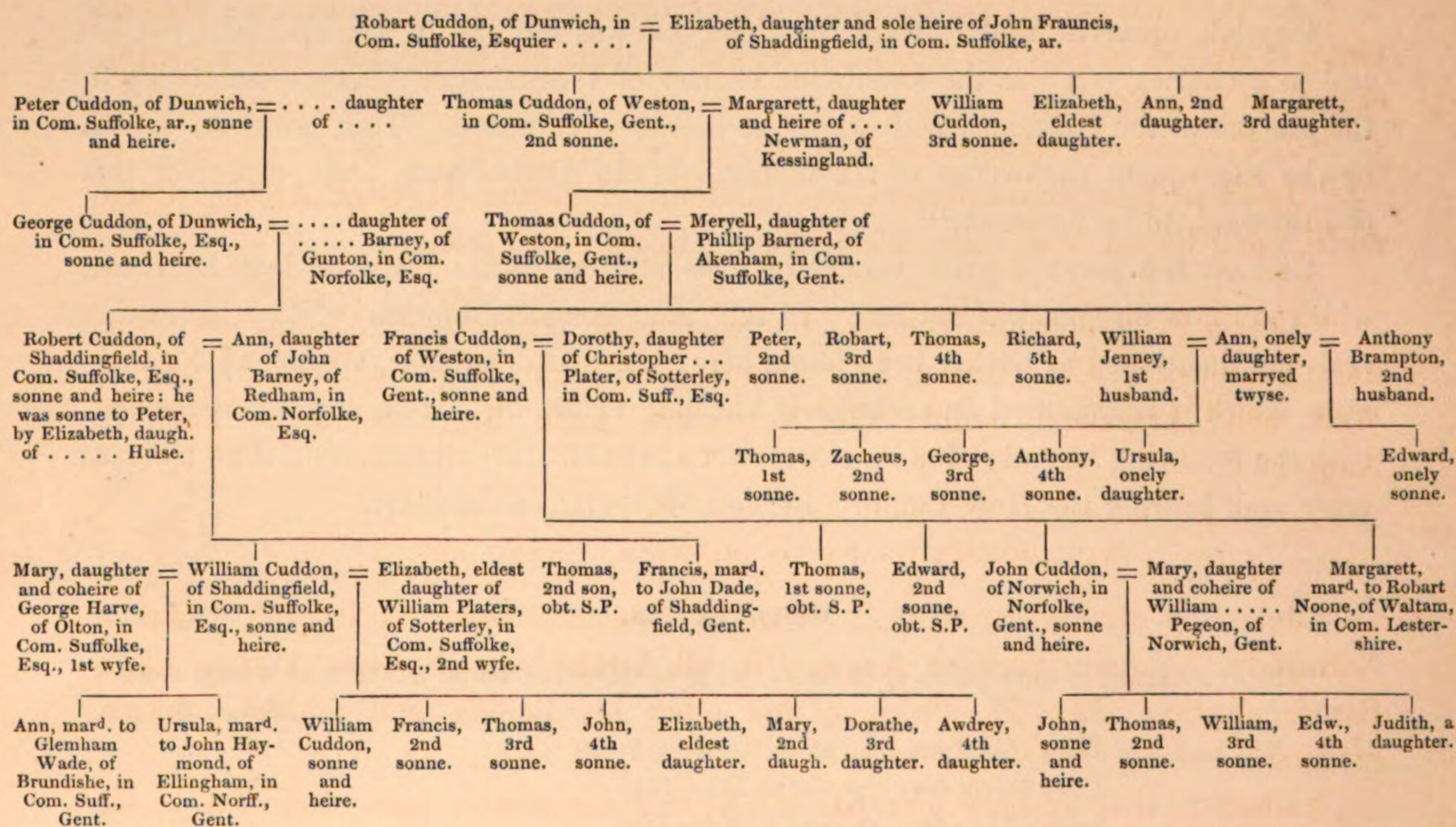
	Perch.	Ft.
The length of Maison Dieu Lane to Maison Dieu Hill	41	13
„ Maison Dieu Hill to St. James' Street	29	4
From the cliff to the east end of the chancell (? of All Saints church) 70 yards, measured Sept. 26, 1772."		

"William de Rothyng's account of the Issues of the town, collected by J. Dowsing, and other bailiffs, from Michaelmas, anno 15, to 27 November, anno 16 Edward I., 1287, 1288.

	£.	s.	d.
De redditu assiso	12	8	4
De munitis, stallagiis, ¹¹⁷ navibus, tonmanscot, ¹¹⁸ et kunnescot, ¹¹⁹ custuma canabi ¹²⁰ et littoris maris	4	15	11½
De custumis pistorum et braciatorum	10	00	00
De signis datis ad portas ejusdem villæ ¹²¹	4	16	3½
De maeremio, ¹²² frumento, ordeo, avena, et brasio	6	12	11¼
De placitis et perquisitionibus curiarum ejusdem villæ	7	7	00
In elemosyna constituta monachis de Eya	12	00	00
Militibus de Templo	10	00	

1 marca, et 24 milliar. allecum monachis de Ely."

Of the old family of Cuddon, which, from Edward Cuddon, who figures as bailiff of Dunwich in 1302, flourished for many centuries in this town, I find the following pedigree in the British Museum.¹²³



¹¹⁷ Small stalls.

¹¹⁸ Town rate.

¹¹⁹ King's rate.

¹²⁰ Customs on hemp.

¹²¹ Beacons. A beacon stood south of the town, on a place still retaining the appellation of the Beacon Hill.—Gardner.

¹²² Building timber.

¹²³ Harl. MSS. 1169.

The following charters, &c., are transcribed from Gardner :

“ Charta Regis Johannis, concessa Burgensibus Dunwici, cujus origo inter chartas antiquas, in Arce Londinensi, in Fasciculo D. Num. 29. obsignata reperiatur.

“ Johannes, Dei gracia Rex, &c. Salutem. Sciatis nos concessisse, &c.

“ 1. Burgensibus liberis nostris Dunwici, quod Burgum de Dunwic sit liberum Burgum.

“ 2. Et habeat socham, &c.

“ 3. Et quod ipsi rectam et solitam firmam suam per manum suam reddant ad schaccarium nostrum.

“ 4. Et quod nullam sectam faciant Comitatum, et Hundredorum, nisi coram Justiciariis nostris.

“ 5. Et mittant pro se duodecim legales homines de Burgo suo, qui sint pro eis omnibus.

“ 6. Et si forte amerciari debuerint, per sex probos homines de Burgo suo amercientur.

“ 7. Concessimus etiam eis, quod filios et filias suas possint libere, ubi voluerint infra terram nostram, maritare.

“ 8. Et viduas scilicet per consilium dominicorum suorum et perquisitiones suas de terris, et edificiis in villa sua possint, dare, aut vendere, aut facere inde quid voluerint, et quando voluerint.

“ 9. Concessimus etiam Hamsoken, &c.

“ Testibus, E. Elyensi episcopo, &c. Datum per manum H. Cant. Archiep. Canc. nostri, apud Rupen Auri Valli : 29 die Junii ; Regni nostri primo.

“ Charta Regis Johannis concessa burgensibus de Dunewiz, de quadraginta libris, &c. Testibus, W. Com. Sarum, &c. Datum per manum. Hugon de Well. D. Archid. Well. apud Fremantel, quinto die Novembris, Anno Regni Septimo. Fasc. Z. Num. 24.”

KING JOHN'S GRANT TO DONWICH. ANNO REG. X.

“ John, by the grace of God, King of England, Duke of Ireland, Duke of Normandy, Aquitain, Earle of Anjou. To all Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffes, Provosts, and other his Bailiffs, and faithful subjects, greeting.

“ Know ye that we have granted, and by this our charter have confirmed, to the honest men, and our burgesses of Donwich, and their heirs, for their faithful service, a free burgh, and guild of merchants, with a house, and other customs, liberties, and freedoms, to the said guild belonging. And that within their borough it shall be lawful

for them to take nanna¹²⁴ for their debtors, and their sureties for all debts, which to them are, or may happen to be due. And that they shall plead in no other place, nor be summoned, nor warned upon, or by reason of any plea out of their borough; but shall have law and justice ministered unto them in their own borough, before our justices or bailiffs. Also we have granted unto the same our burgesses, and their heirs, that although any of them shall be sued in or upon any appeals, they shall not make any Battle, neither within nor without their own borough, neither for land, nor for robbery, nor felony, nor for any other thing, except only for the death of a man that is a foreigner. And if any that are, or shall be of the said borough, shall fortune to be sued in or upon any appeal for any felony, or touching the death of any other man, they shall purge and clear themselves by the oath of twenty-four free and lawful men, being their neighbours, and peers and equals. And if any other man's villein or bondman shall come and dwell within the burgh aforesaid, and shall hold land in the same, and shall be in the aforesaid guild, and house, and in lot and scot with the same burgesses for the space of one whole year and a day, he shall not after be taken thence, but shall remain and continue a free man in the same borough. Also, we have granted unto our said burgesses and their heirs, soc and sac, and toll, and theam, and infangethef, and that they and their men, with their chattels and ships, and other their goods and possessions shall, and stand, and be discharged, and quit upon murage, lastage, passage, pontage, stallage, and of and from leve and Danegelt, and from gawite; and of and from all other customs, taxes, and exactions, by and through all our power, and jurisdictions, as well within our realm of England, as in all other our lands and countries. Further we have granted unto them, that they shall and may freely marry their daughters, wheresoever they may, can, or will, without the license of any person or persons. And that none shall have power or authority to marry them, except it be with their own good will; neither in the life-time of their parents, nor after their decease. Moreover we have granted to the same burgesses, that no person or persons shall or may have the ward or custody of their sons, or daughters, or heirs, nor of their lands or goods, except only their own proper parents or friends, or those to whom they shall provide, assign and appoint the ward and custody thereof. And that none of their sons, or heirs, shall be compelled to marry a wife, except it be by and with his own proper accord and good will. And that their widows, in their donations and bestowings shall have, and shall be at their own proper will and discretion. Also we have granted to the same our burgesses and their heirs, that they shall and may freely give, or sell, purchase, or buy, whatsoever they have, or shall have of their own, to any person what-

¹²⁴ Nanna, or Naam. A power to take a distress upon moveable goods; and to carry them out of the county where they were distrained.

soever; and thereof appoint heir, whomsoever they shall think good. And those liberties and freedoms aforewritten we have granted, and by these our charter confirmed to the same our burgesses, and their heirs, to be had and holden of us and our heirs, to them and their heirs for ever, well and in peace, freely and quietly, peaceably, fully, and honourably, with other liberties and free customs, and good uses, which in their borough they have accustomed; and which any of our cities or boroughs have either in England, or any other part of our lands and dominions. Wherefore our will and pleasure is, and we do straightly command, that our foresaid burgesses of Donwiche, and their heirs, shall and may have, and hold all things aforesaid, well and in peace, freely and quietly, with all appertinances, and liberties, and free customs, to the same appertaining, as is aforesaid. Witnesses, Lord H. Archbishop of Dublin; B. Bishop of W.; Earl of Sarum, &c. Given by the hand of our chancellor at Dunlas, the sixth day of July, in the tenth year of our reign."

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S RENEWAL OF THE DUNWICH CHARTERS.

"Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all men to whom these present letters shall come, greeting.

"We have seen the letters patents of the Lord Edward, late King of England, the sixth, our most dear brother, of confirmation, in these words. Edward the sixth, by the grace of God, of England, France, and Ireland, the supreme Head. To all men to whom these present letters shall come, greeting.

"We have seen the letters patents of Lord Edward, late King of England, the fourth, our great-grandfather, made in these words. Edward, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland. To his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Presidents, Ministers; and all Bailiffs, and faithful subjects, greeting.

"We have seen the letters patents of Lord Richard, late King of England, the second after the Conquest, made in these words. Richard, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland. To all men to whom these present letters shall come, greeting.

"We have seen a charter of confirmation of Lord Edward, late King of England, our grand-father, in these words. Edward, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitaine. To his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Presidents, Ministers, and Bailiffs, and faithful subjects, greeting.

"We have seen a charter of confirmation, which Lord Edward, of famous memory, late King of England, our grand-father, hath made to the honest men and burgesses of Donwiche, in these words; viz. Edward, by the grace of God, King of England,

and Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitaine. To his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Presidents, Ministers, and Bailiffs, and faithful subjects, greeting.

“ We have seen the charter which Lord Henry, late King of England, our father, hath made to the discreet men, and burgesses of Dunwich, of certain liberties underwritten in these words. Henry, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy, and Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou. To his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Officers, Ministers; and all Bailiffs, and faithful subjects, greeting.

“ Know ye that we have granted, and by this present charter have confirmed to the honest men, and our burgesses of Dunwich, and to their heirs, for their faithful service, a free borough, and a guild of merchants, with a house, and other customs, and liberties to the same guild belonging. And that in their borough, it shall be lawful to take nanna of their debtors, and their sureties for all debts; the which to them shall be due.

“ And that they shall plead in no plea; nor be summoned to any other plea without their borough; but in their own borough shall stand to the law before our justices or bailiffs. Also we have granted unto the same our burgesses, and their heirs, that although any of them shall be appealed, he shall not make his Battle, neither in their borough nor without their borough, neither for land, neither for robbery, nor for felony, nor for any other thing, except only for manslaughter of a foreigner. And if any, which shall be of the same borough, shall be appealed for any felony, or any manslaughter, he shall clear himself by the oath of twenty-four free and lawful men of his neighbours, and peers. And if any bondman of any person shall dwell in the aforesaid borough, and hold land in the same, and shall be in their said guild, and haugh, and shall pay lot and scot with the same burgesses for one year and one day, from thenceforth he shall not be challenged again by his lord, but shall remain a freeman in the same borough.

“ Also we have granted unto the same our burgesses, and to their heirs, sac and soc, toll, theam, and infangethef. And that they, and their men, with their chattels and ships, and all other things and possessions, shall be discharged of murage, lastage, passage, pontage, stallage, leve, Danegelt, and gaywight; and of all other customs and exactions through all our lands, and dominions of England; as in all our other lands.

“ Also we have granted unto them, that they may freely marry their daughters wheresoever they can, or will, without license from any man. And that no person shall have power to marry them but by their own accord; neither in the life of their fathers, nor after their decease. And further we have granted unto the same our burgesses, that no man shall have the custody of their sons or daughters, or heirs, or of their lands or chattels, except their own parents and friends, or those to whom they

shall provide and assign the custody thereof; and that none of their sons, or heirs shall be compelled to marry a wife, but by his own proper accord. And that their widows in their bestowing, shall be at their own will.

“Also we have granted unto the same our burgesses, and to their heirs, that they may freely give, or sell, purchase, or buy, their own when they will; and thereof to appoint heir whomsoever, and whensoever they will; and these liberties aforewritten, to the same burgesses and their heirs, we have granted, and by our charter confirmed. To have and to hold of us, and our heirs, to them and to their heirs for ever, well and in peace, freely and quietly, peaceably and wholly, fully and honourably, with all their liberties, and free customs, and good uses within their borough they have accustomed to have, and which any of our cities or boroughs hath, either in England, or in any other countries. Wherefore we will, and straightly command, that our foresaid burgesses of Donwich, and their heirs shall have, and hold all things abovesaid well, and in peace, freely and quietly; with all appertenances, liberties, and free customs, to the same appertaining, as is aforesaid, and as the charter of Lord J. (John) King, our father, which they have, thereof doth reasonably testify. These being witnesses: Henry de Burgo, Earl of Kent, Justice of England; R. Earl of Chester and Lincoln; W. Marshall, Earl of Pembroke; Geo. Earl of Gloster; Ralph, the son of Nicholas; Philip de Alburnaco; J. the son of Philip; Ralph de Ralegh, and others. Given by the hand of Nicholas de Nevill, Vicegerent; the reverend father, Ralph, Bishop of Chichester, our Chancellor; at Saint Marlows; the seventh day of May, in the fourteenth year of our reign.

“Also we have seen a certain other charter, of the same our father, to the same discreet men, and burgesses of Dunwich, made, of certain other liberties likewise underwritten, in these words. Henry, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy, Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou; to his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Ministers; and all Bailiffs, and liege people, greeting.

“Know ye that we have granted, and by this present charter have confirmed for us and our heirs, to our burgesses of Donwich, that they and their heirs, burgesses of the same town, shall for ever have the return of all writs touching our town of Donwich, and the liberties of the same town; and that the bailiffs of the same town may answer by their own proper hands, at our Exchequer, for all their debts, and of summons of the same Exchequer concerning the foresaid town of Donwich.

“So that no sheriff, or other our bailiffs, or ministers, from henceforth, shall intermeddle himself in such summons; or in any attachments, or distresses, to be made in the foresaid town; except it be by the default of the said burgesses, or of the bailiffs of the said town.

“ And that the burgesses of themselves may choose and make coroners in the town aforesaid, to make attachments of the fees of our crown arising within the aforesaid town, and the liberties of the same town; and may answer before our justices itinerant in those parts, for the attachments by them made; and other things to the coroner's office belonging, as other coroners ought, and do accustom to answer.

“ Also we have granted to the same burgesses, that all merchandize and wares, as well of fish, as of other things coming to the port of Donwich, being found in ships, or without, shall be freely and openly sold and bought by the hands of merchants that bring such merchandize.

“ So that from henceforth there shall be no brokers in the said town, by whom the buyers and sellers may be letted freely to make such buying or sellings, to the detriment of the said town.

“ Wherefore we will, and straightly command, for us and our heirs, that the said burgesses of Dunwich, and their heirs, burgesses of the same town, shall have all the liberties aforewritten, and the same from henceforth freely, and without impediment of any person, shall use for ever as is aforesaid. And we do forbid, upon our forfeiture, that no man presume to molest, or disquiet them contrary to this liberty and grant of ours. These being witnesses: W. of Ely, and W. of Norwich, Bishops; Roger de Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, and Marshal of England; Hump. de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex; Peter de Sevand; Guy de Lehinam; and William de Valencia, our brother, and others. Given under our hand at Westminster, the twentieth day of April, in the fortieth year of our reign. And we holding the grant abovesaid firm and stable, the same to the aforesaid burgesses, their heirs and successors for us, and our heirs, do grant and confirm, as the charters aforesaid of the liberties and free customs abovesaid, which the same burgesses, and their successors hitherto reasonably have used; justly and truly do testify. These being witnesses: the reverend father, R. Bishop of Bath and Wells; Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloster and Hereford; Roger de Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, and Marshal of England; Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulton;¹²⁵ and others. Given under our hands at Westminster, the twenty-eighth of June, in the thirteenth year of our reign. And we hold firm and stable the grants and confirmations aforesaid, the same for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, to the foresaid burgesses, and their successors, burgesses of that town, do grant and confirm, as the charters aforesaid reasonably do witness, and as the said burgesses, their ancestors and predecessors, burgesses of the town aforesaid, the liberties and discharges abovesaid, hitherto reasonably have used and enjoyed. These being witnesses: the reverend father, John, Bishop

¹²⁵ Gardner calls him Earl of Ulton, but he was Earl of Ulster, and surnamed the Red. He died 28th June, 1326, and was buried in the abbey of Athassel, in Tipperary, where is an effigy to his memory.

of Ely; H. Bishop of Lincoln, our Chancellor. J. Eltham, Earl of Cornwall, our dearest brother. Roger de Morthuomaur, Earl of March. H. Perse. William de Mountacue. John Matreves, steward of our house, and others. Given under our hand at Canterbury, the twenty-second day of May, in the third year of our reign. We holding the gifts, grants, and confirmations aforesaid firm and stable, the same for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, do accept, allow and ratify. And the same to the aforesaid discreet men and burgesses of the same town aforesaid, and to their heirs and successors, burgesses of the same town, do grant and confirm as the charters aforesaid reasonably do testify, and as the same honest men and burgesses, and their ancestors, and burgesses of the same town, the liberties and quittances in the same charter contained, hitherto justly and reasonably have used, and enjoyed. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patents. Witness myself at Westminster, the twenty-eighth day of January, in the second year of our reign.

“We, by the humble information of our well beloved the burgesses of the town aforesaid, understanding that town one of the ancientest of our kingdom of England upon the sea-side for the resisting of our enemies intending to invade our aforesaid realm; and for the defence of the parts there near, and by the violence and force of the sea much weakened and impoverished; and considering the manifold costs, expense, and charges, which the aforesaid burgesses about the defence of the same town, and of the country adjoining, and also for the withstanding of our enemies before these times, have laid out, and shall behove them and their successors from henceforth to lay out; and worthily regarding the faithful and commendable services of the burgesses aforesaid, wherewith to us, and our progenitors of famous memory, late kings of England, hitherto they have showed themselves acceptable and ready, especially to us very lately, at their no small costs, and charges, labours and expenses; and wishing that so much the more the said burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their heirs and successors shall of our grant enjoy more ample liberties; and be strengthened with privileges; they shall think themselves so much the more firmly and effectually bound unto us, and our heirs hereafter to bestow the like, or better, according to their powers; of our grace especially, and of our certain knowledge holding firm and stable the liberties and charters aforesaid, and all and singular things in them contained, the same for us and our heirs, as much as in us is; we do accept, allow, and ratify, and to the aforesaid burgesses, their heirs and successors, do grant, and confirm.

“Further to do them a great pleasure, we have granted for us and our heirs, and by these presents do confirm to the aforesaid burgesses, their heirs and successors, that albeit the said burgesses, or their ancestors, or predecessors, any of the grants, gifts, liberties, and acquittances, aforesaid, or of any other things in the said charter or letters contained before these times, hitherto have not fully used or abused; nevertheless the

same burgesses, or their ancestors, predecessors, any of the grants, gifts, liberties, and acquittances aforesaid, and every one of them from henceforth may fully enjoy, and use, without let or impediment of us, or our heirs, justices, escheators, or ministers whatsoever of us, or of our heirs.

“And further, of our grace and knowledge aforesaid, we have granted for us and our heirs, to the aforesaid burgesses and their heirs and successors, that the bailiffs of the town aforesaid, for the time being, and a certain lawyer, and four of the most chief and discreet burgesses of the town aforesaid, by the burgesses of the same from time to time, as need shall, in the Guild Hall of the town aforesaid to be chosen and named, from henceforth for ever shall be jointly and severally keepers of the peace of us and of our heirs; and shall have power and authority to keep and cause to be kept, the peace of us and our heirs, and the statutes, and the ordinances, at Westminster, Northampton, and Winchester, for the keeping of the same peace, and the statutes and ordinances there, and at Cambridge, concerning workmen, hunters, artificers, servants, hostlers, beggars, and vagabonds, and other men begging, which name themselves travelling men.

“And likewise the statutes and ordinances at Westminster, in the years of the reign of Henry the sixth, late in deeds, and not of right—king of England, the first and second, touching liveries of signs of companies to knights, esquires, or yeomen, and other liveries of cloth, not to be given, nor the same liveries in any wise not to be used and set forth. And also a certain statute against Lollards, in the parliament of Henry the fifth, late in deeds, and not of right, king of England, at Leicester set forth.

“Moreover a certain other statute in the parliament of the same Henry the fifth, holden at Westminster, touching the counterfeiting, clipping, washing, and other falsehood of the money of our land likewise made.

“And also all other ordinances and statutes made, and to be made for the utility of the peace of us and our heirs, and the quiet rule and governance of the people of us, and our heirs, in all and singular of their articles within the town aforesaid, and the liberties and precincts of the same, according to the strength, form and effect of the same.

“And to correct and punish all those whom they shall find offending against the form of the ordinances and statutes.

“And to cause all those which shall threaten any of the people of us, or of our heirs, of their bodies, or of the burning of their houses, to come before them to put in sufficient surety for the peace, and their good behaviour towards us and our heirs, and the people of us and our heirs. And if they shall refuse to find such surety, then to cause them to be safely kept in the prison of us and our heirs of the town aforesaid, until they will find surety.

“And further, that they, six, five, four, three, or two of them, from henceforth for

ever, shall be justices of us and our heirs, to inquire by the oath of honest and lawful men of the town, liberty, and precinct aforesaid, by whom the truth of the matter may best be known, of all manner of felonies, trespasses, regraters, and extortioners within the town, liberty and precinct aforesaid; by whatsoever means made or done, and which hereafter shall happen there to be made, attempted, or done.

“And also of all and singular within the town, liberty and precinct aforesaid, in any wise made, attempted or done, whereof by the keepers of the peace of us, and of our heirs, assigned, and to be assigned, to inquire of such felonies, trespasses, and evil deeds, in any country of our realm of England, by virtue of the ordinances and statutes before these times made, according to the strength and effect of the letters of us and our heirs to them thereof made, it ought, and was wont, and shall be due to be required.

“And all and singular the premises, and other things whatsoever within the town, liberty, and precinct aforesaid, made, attempted, or done, which by such keepers of the peace of us and our heirs, and the justices of us and our assigns, and to be assigned, to hear and determine such felonies, trespasses, and ill deeds in any country aforesaid, by virtue of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid, and of the liberties aforesaid, ought, and are accustomed, and shall owe to be discussed and determined by the same bailiffs, lawyer, and four burgesses, six, five, four, three, or two of them; whereof we will the same lawyer, from time to time, to be one to hear and determine according to the law and custom of our realm of England, and the form of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid; so that the keepers of the peace of us and our heirs, and the justices of us and our heirs assigned, and to be assigned, to hear and determine such felonies made or done, or to be made or done in the county of Suffolk, the town, liberty, and precinct aforesaid, to do any thing that to the keepers of the peace, or such justices belongeth, shall not enter, nor any of them shall enter, nor therein in any thing shall intermeddle by any means.

“And moreover, of our grace and knowledge aforesaid, we have granted for us, and our heirs, to the aforesaid burgesses, their heirs and successors, that they shall for ever have all manner of wrecks of the sea, wheresoever such wrecks, within the town, liberty, and precinct, upon the land, sea, and water, shall happen to be found; to have and to hold such wrecks of other things that to the office of the Admiral of us and of our heirs, do, and shall belong, to the aforesaid burgesses and their successors without any thing of us and our heirs therefore to be paid.

“And that the bailiffs of the town aforesaid for the time being, and either of them, in the absence of either of them, as well in the presence of us, and of our heirs, shall for ever make and have the assize, assay, amending, punishing, and correction of bread, wine, ale, and other victuals, measures, weights, and other things whatsoever to the office of the clerk of the market of the house of us and our heirs appertaining, or

belonging, within the town, liberty, and precinct aforesaid. And all and whatsoever to the office of such clerk of the market belongeth, or may belong to be done or exercised, shall and may do, and exercise and execute within the town, liberty, and precinct aforesaid, as often as when it shall be needful and necessary, so fully, and wholly as any clerk of the market of the house of us and of our heirs might do, and ought to exercise, if this our present grant had not been made.

“And that the aforesaid bailiffs of the town aforesaid, for the time being, and either of them, in the absence of either of them, shall and may hold for ever within the town aforesaid, the Court Admiral of us and of our heirs; and all and singular things to the court of Admiralty belonging and appertaining within the liberties of the town aforesaid growing, and to grow in the court aforesaid before them, or either of them, shall and may for ever here determine and being so, that no clerk of the market of the house of us, or our heirs, nor the admiral of us, or of our heirs, or his lieutenant, commissary, officer, or deputy; nor the steward, nor the marshal of the house of us, or our heirs, their servants in the town, liberty, and precinct aforesaid, by land, sea, or by water, to do, execute, or exercise any thing that to such office of him, or any of them there doth, or shall belong to be done, shall enter in any wise.

“And it shall be lawful to the aforesaid burgesses, their heirs and successors, and every of them, every such clerk of the market, and admiral, and his lieutenant, commissary, officer, deputy, steward, and marshal of the house of us, and of our heirs; and their, and every of their servants within the liberty and precinct aforesaid, intend to do, execute, or exercise by water, by sea, or by land, any thing that is, to his office pertaineth, or shall pertain to be done, executed, or exercised, to resist, and him, and them in no wise to suffer to do, execute, or by any means exercise any his office there, without molestation, inquieting or disturbance of us, or our heirs, or any other whatsoever; for that express mention, in these presents, is not made of the true yearly value, or any other value, or certainty of the premises of any of them, or of other gifts and grants to the foresaid burgesses, or their predecessors by us, or by any of our progenitors before these times made, or any other statute, act, ordinance, use, custom, or provision to the contrary had, made, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever notwithstanding. These being witnesses. The reverend father, Thomas of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and legate of the Apostolick see, our most dear cousin; William of York, Primate of England; Archbishops. William of Ely; George of Exeter, Chancellor, our dearest cousin; G. of Clarence, and R. of Gloster, our dearest brethren, Dukes. Richard of Warwick, our Chamberlain of England; and Henry of Essex, our most dear cousins, Earles. Henry Gray, of Rathen, our Treasurer of England, and William of Hastings, Chamberlain of our house, Knights; and our well beloved clerk, Robert Stellington, keeper of our Privy Seal, and

others. Dated under our hands at Westminster, the fourth day of July, in the thirteenth year of our reign.

“We, the letters aforesaid, and all, and every thing in them contained, holding firm and stable the same for us, and our heirs, as much as in us is, do accept and allow. And to our well beloved, our now substantial men and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors by the tenor of these presents do ratify, and confirm, as the letters aforesaid reasonably do testify. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patents. Witness myself at Westminster, the twenty-third day of May, in the first year of our reign.

“And we, the letters and charters aforesaid; and all, and singular things in them contained, holding firm and stable, the same for us, our heirs and successors, as much as in us is, do accept and approve; and to our well beloved bailiffs, honest men, and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, by the tenure of these presents, do ratify and confirm, as the letters and charters aforesaid, reasonably do testify. In witness whereof, these our letters we have caused to be made patents.

“Witness myself at Redgrave, the three and twentieth day of September, in the first year of our reign. P. CORELL.”

“For threescore shillings paid into the Hanaper.”

“The limits of the lordships from Pakefield in the county of Suffolk, to Hindford, in Essex, concerning wreck of the sea, and divers privileges and injunctions dependent on the lords of the several manors, extracted from the Chartulary of Butley, now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.”

“Inquisitio capta apud Donewicum, die Mercurii prox. post festum Sancti Gregorii, Papæ, anno regni regis Henrici, filii regis Johannis, XXI., pro wrecco maris, et aliis diversis Domino Regi tangentibus, coram Roberto de Laxinton, et Adam, filio Willimi, Justic. Domini regis, per sacrum Ed. Rothing, mil., Henrici Creting, Willi de Uggeshall, Johannis Elmfray, Roberti de Stevine, Semen de Iken, Ed. Goodchilde, Johannis Quintin, Henrici, filii Semen, Thomæ Randolfe, Johannis Colior, et Edi. Savage; qui dicunt quod Henricus Colvile et Thomas Batun habent wreccum maris in villa de Pakefield, et Kessingland, quo warranto ignorant. Item Simon Perpond habet wreccum maris in villa de Benacre, viz.—a portu de Kessingland, usque ad portum de Benacre. Item Ballivus de Blything habet wreccum maris nomine regis in tota villa de Northaling, a dicto portu de Benacre usque le Southmere. Item Thomas Bavent capit wreccum maris in villa de Easton, viz.—a Southmere usque Eston-Stone. Item Comes Gloucestræ capit wreccum maris in villa de Southwold a Eston-Stone usque partem australem de Eycliff. Item Domina Margeria Cressy capit wreccum maris in villa de Blithburgh, et Walberswick, viz.—a Eycliff usque portum Donewych. Item

Burgenses Donewici habent wreccum maris in villa Donewico, viz.—a portu Donewici usque ad limitem de Westleton, abutt. super altum mare Cachecliff. Item, quod Willimus Hardyll capit wreccum maris in villa de Westleton, viz.—a predicto limite usque portum de Menes-Mere. Item Abbas de Leyston capit wreccum maris in villa de Thorp, viz.—a portu de Menesmere usque Almouthe. Item Prior de Snape capit wreccum maris in villa de Aldeburgh, viz.—a Almouthe usque le Ness de Orford. Item Ballivi de Orford habent wreccum nomine Domini Regis in tota villa de Orford, viz.—a le Ness usque le Newmore. Item Comes Marescallus capit wreccum maris a Newmore usque portum de Hanford in comitatu Essex, et appropriat. et portum de Orwell, et Gosford, qui pertinent Domino Regi.

“Item, quod idem Comes Marescallus debet reparare pontem de Snape, ut dicitur, causa terrarum quas tenet ex utraque parte pontis. Item, quod Abbas de Leyston habet mercatum apud Sizewell, et capit ibi consuetudinem et theolon. Item, quod idem Abbas capit custom. de qualibet carecta cum bladis et piscibus, 2*d.* et de quolibet equo cum manu portante, ob. Item, quod idem Abbas, et villata de Wessleton debent reparare pontem de East-brigge cum calceto quod est in communi transitu ubi homines transeuntes cum carris et cariatibus equitibus et peditibus transire solebant. Item Hundred de Hoxon debet reparare signum, quod vocatur le Bekon, juxta Donewic, stans super Cachecliff in villa de Westleton. Item, quod burgenses Donewici debent habere unam naviculam pro pheriagio ex sua parte dicti portus, capientes de custom. pro homine et equo, ob. Item, quod Margeria de Cressy, domina de Blithburgh et Walberswick, debet habere aliam naviculam pro pheriagiis ex sua parte capien. eandem customar. viz.—pro homine et equo, ob.; ut dicti burgenses. Item, quod tenentes dictæ Margeriæ debent reparare pontem de Walberswick. Item, quod villati de Southwold debent reparare Myghtes Brigge, ratione mercati dictæ villæ. Item, quod dicta Margeria capit travers, et customar. apud Blithburgh et Walberswick de transeuntibus, viz.—de qualibet carecta ferro ligat. et onera. 1*d.* et qualibet carecta non ferrat. et onerat. ob. Item, quod Prior de Blithburgh debet reparare pontem de Blithburgh sumptibus suis propriis, et illum sustentare, ratione terr. et ten. quas tenet ex utraque parte dicti pontis. Et tenentes dictæ dominæ Margeriæ debent reparare calcetum in prædicta villa de Blithburgh, quod est communis transitus pro pedestribus et equestribus. Item Hundred de Blithburgh et Mutford debent reparare pontem de Kessingland cum calcetis.”

We cannot close our account of this desolated, yet still interesting spot, better than by transcribing the following stanzas from the pages of Suffolk's sweetest bard.

“Oft gazing on thy craggy brow,
We muse on glories o'er;
Fair Dunwich! thou art lowly now,
Renown'd and sought no more.

How proudly rose thy crested seat
 Above the ocean wave ;
 Yet doom'd beneath that sea to meet
 One wide and sweeping grave !

The stately city greets no more
 The home-returning bark ;
 Sad relics of her splendors o'er
 One crumbling spire we mark.

Unlike when ruled by Saxon powers,
 She sat in ancient pride,
 With all her stately halls and towers
 Reflected on the tide.

Those who through each forgotten age
 With patient care will look,
 Will find her fate in many a page
 Of Time's extended book."

Easton.

THIS parish, which is also called Easton Bavent, from a family once its lords, lies northwards of Southwold; and is supposed to have terminated eastwards in a lofty promontory, which has, ages since, been wasted by the sea. To have formed the most eastern headland of our island—which it undoubtedly once did—its extreme cape must have extended more than three miles from the present cliffs into the ocean. We may reasonably conclude that in the Roman era its projection was still greater, and that it formed a Ness, or point, very remarkably elongated: hence the name of *'Εξοχή*, which it obtained from the geographer Ptolemy; and its subsequent appellation of Eysteney. All traces of Anglo-Roman occupation here have long disappeared, the village now comprising only a narrow slip of land by the sea-side, with a population not exceeding a dozen souls. The ravages of the ocean appear to have commenced here at a very early period, for at the time of the Norman Survey, Estun was an impoverished and wasted village.¹ The salina, or salt-works, of Elric, its Saxon owner, who in the Confessor's reign had held the place under Earl Harold, had

¹ Domesday, 444.

disappeared. The demesne lands had decreased half a carucate; and in place of the eighty sheep and other cattle, kept by Elric, Gislebert, Balastarius, its Norman owner, had none. In the Confessor's time, the estate had been valued at forty shillings; by the Domesday commissioners it was returned at only twenty. It was then one leuca in length, and half an one in breadth, and paid sixpence land-tax. If we take the leuca at a mile and a half,—which probably approximates to the extent of that ancient scale of admeasurement,—we shall find the parish of Easton, at the present day, of about the same length, measured from north to south, though its width, seaward, has decreased to about a quarter of a mile, or a little more. Hence we gather that the ocean, having swept away the opposing point or Ness, now sets with less violence on this part of the coast, the action of its tides having wasted not more than a few furlongs in a period of nearly eight hundred years.

In the reign of Henry III., anno 1263, Hubert de Bavent had a grant of free-warren in his manor of Chediston, and was lord of the manor here. We find this lordship held in the following reign of Edward I. by Thomas de Bavent, who was attached in the second of Edward II. for taking wreck of sea between Benacre and Snodespyche. He answered that he knew not where Snodespyche was, but that he had, and his ancestors also had, always possessed the liberty of wreck of sea in the parish of Easton. The same Thomas de Bavent had a grant, in the fourth of Edward III., for a market to be holden here weekly on Wednesdays, and an annual fair on the eve and morrow of the feast of St. Nicholas.² His arms were arg. a chief indented sable. In the thirteenth of the same reign, he settled the manors of Easton Bavent and Chediston, in Suffolk, on himself for life; remainder to William, his son, and Catharine, his wife; remainder to Felicia, his daughter, sister of William; and the remainder to John, son of Thomas de Ulverston; remainder to Richard, son of John, son of Baldwin Bavent; and in the nineteenth of the said reign, William Bavent was lord and patron, presenting to the church in 1344. When the family of Bavent became extinct is uncertain, but probably about the middle of the fourteenth century; for in 1361, Sir John Argentein presented to the rectory, and in the following year, the King assigned to William Ufford, and Joan, his wife, *inter alia*, a knight's fee, which Mary, the wife of Thomas, late Earl of Norfolk, held in dower, situated in Chediston, and Easton, which Thomas Bavent held.³ The family appears to have been of considerable importance during the reign of Edward II., for Roger Bavent was summoned to Parliament, 8th January, 1333, as a Baron by writ, though his son and grandson were never summoned. The latter died without male issue, leaving two daughters, with whose descendants the barony of Bavent is in abeyance.

² Dugdale.

³ Harl. MSS. 5193, fol. 67.

In 1376, Richard Cosyn presented to the church of Easton, but in 1392, Robert, the son and heir of Sir John Schardelow, Knt., was lord and patron. With this family the manor remained till the middle of the fifteenth century; Ela, the widow of Robert Schardelow, presenting in 1438. This lady, in a list of knights' fees held in Suffolk, is called the relict of *Walter* Schardelow.

Ela, que fuit ux. Walteri Schardelowe, Chr. ten. in Eston Bavint, et Chedeston, di. f. mil. de Johe Duce Norff. q^d Wills Bavint nup. tenuit de Castr^o de Framlynghm iij^s. iiij^d.

Thomas Hopton, Esq., was lord in 1479, Sir Arthur Hopton, Knt., in 1521, and in 1590, the assignees of William Roberds, Esq., presented. Early in the seventeenth century, the manor and advowson of this parish were possessed by Roberds Smith, Esq., the son of William Smith, and passed from the former gentleman to Jeffry Howland, Esq., who presented to the church in 1666.

Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Howland, Esq., marrying Wriothsley Russell, afterwards Duke of Bedford, carried this property to her husband, but the Duchess, surviving, sold it, in 1718, to Thomas Carthew, Esq., of Benacre, whose widow and son re-sold it to Thomas Gooch, Esq., as parcel of the Benacre estate: Sir Thomas Sherlock Gooch, Bart., is the present owner.

In the eighth of Queen Elizabeth, William Gryce, Esq., and Charles Newcomin, Gent., held lands in Easton Bavent, for themselves and their heirs, of the manor of East Greenwich; and mention is also made of estates held by the like tenure, in free and common soccage, by Hugh Counsell and Robert Pistor, Gents.⁴

A participation in the fishing trade seems to have been enjoyed by the inhabitants of Easton till the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In 1464, William Ferrier, of Easton, paid "for breaking Walburyswick Key with his schyppe, 12 pence;"⁵ and John Franke bequeathed his ship with its boats and nets, in 1491.⁶ The town must have retained some degree of trade and consideration for near a century posterior to this date; for in 1579, Richard Strangeman bequeathed towards building the clock-house, 40*s.*, conditionally, that the town should go about to build and finish it, as it ought to be, within one year of his decease. In 1754, however, the town was reduced to two dwelling-houses, and about ten souls.⁷ Easton Broad, which is a considerable piece of water, lying at the northern extremity of the parish, is a favourite resort of wild-fowl, and many of a rare character, which now ornament the museum of the ornithologist, have been captured there.⁸

⁴ Harl. MSS.

⁵ Gardner.

⁶ Idem.

⁷ Idem.

⁸ *Vide* vol. i. p. xxxv. *et seq.*

THE CHURCH.

There was formerly a church here, dedicated to St. Nicholas, and endowed with a residence and eight acres of glebe; all of which have long since been devoured by the sea. The church appears to have been rebuilt between the years 1440 and 1450, as legacies were left for such purpose about that period.

Sir Raff Bokenham, Jantyleman, in his will dated 26th November, 1476, thus devises. "Itm, I yeve my p̄cessionaly an ymner noted, a sawter notyd, and the antemys throughout the yeare to Easton Bavent upon the see syde." In 1527, 6*s.* and 8*d.* were bequeathed for erecting the font, and in the following year, Downey Bekke, by will dated 8th September, leaves 22 pounds to be paid within two years after his decease, to the church of Easton, "to the making of a cross of silver gylt with Mary and John, or ellys a hool sute of rede velvett, of the best that can be devysed by the towness council." Many persons are recorded as having been interred here. Besides John Brook, who was buried in the older church, in 1426, Geffrey Moyse, by his will, dated in 1461, leaves his body to be buried in the cemetery of Easton Bavent. John Cornelyce, by will, dated 16th July, 1510, desires to be buried in the church, and leaves to the high altar 5*s.*, and to the reparation of the said church, £4. He wills that an able priest sing for his soul, and his wife's soul, for two years, in Easton church. A trental to be sung for his soul, his wife's soul, and all her good friends' souls, by the Gray Friars of Dunwich, and the same by the Black Friars of that town. "Item, I wool have a pylgryme to Seynt Jamys for my sowle, and a pylgryme to Walsyngham."

Interments continued to be made in this church till 1568, so that it must have been then standing, though the exact period of its demolition is not recorded. It contained, before the Reformation, a guild of our Lady. The last institution to the church as a separate benefice was in 1666; after which it was long held by sequestration, no clergyman choosing to take it, until it became discharged of first-fruits and tenths, in Queen Anne's reign. In 1747, the patronage being then in the Carthew family, the rectory was consolidated with that of Benacre, the instrument of consolidation being granted to that effect by Sir Thomas Gooch, then Lord Bishop of Norwich, of which the following is a copy.

Thomas, by Divine permission, Bishop of Norwich, to all and singular the faithful in Christ, unto whose knowledge these presents shall come, or whom the matter herein written do, or may hereafter in anywise concern, grace and benediction. Whereas it has been represented unto us, by a petition of Elizabeth Carthew, of Beccles, in the county of Suffolk, widow, patroness in full right of the rectories of Benacre and Easton Bavent, both in the county of Suffolk, and in our Diocese of Norwich; and of Edward North, Rector of Benacre aforesaid, that the rectory of Benacre is of the clear yearly value of eighty pounds, or thereabouts; that the rectory of Easton Bavent aforesaid is discharged from first-fruits and tenths, heretofore certified into his Majesty's Court of Exchequer to be of the yearly value of four pounds

ten shillings, and being now augmented with the Queen's bounty, is about seventeen pounds a year; an income far insufficient to support a minister according to the dignity of his order; and that the parish is very small, now consisting only of two farm-houses; the rest thereof with the church and parsonage, if any there has been, being swallowed up by the sea; and therefore the said petitioners have humbly besought us, that we would be pleased to consolidate the said rectory of Benacre with Easton Bavent in such manner and form as we should think proper—now know ye, we, the said Thomas, Bishop of Norwich, for the reasons aforesaid, and other lawful causes us hereunto moving, have, as far as in us lies, and by law we may, decreed that the said rectories of Benacre and Easton Bavent, with all and singular their tithes, fruits, profits, revenues, oblations, rights, and emoluments, be really united, annexed, consolidated, and incorporated together into one rectory and ecclesiastical benefice; and we do, for us and our successors, for ever hereafter, so unite, annex, consolidate, and incorporate them together, as aforesaid; and by these presents will that the same may now be held, and in all future time be presented to, taken and held, and enjoyed, as one rectory, and one benefice only, by the name of the Rectory of Benacre with Easton Bavent. And we do also decree, ordain, and appoint, that by virtue of the power and authority of this our union and consolidation, the said Edward North, of the said rectory of Benacre, by virtue of his institution and induction thereto, and his successors, rectors thereof, shall take, hold, and receive all and singular the fruits, tithes, profits, revenues, oblations, and other rights and emoluments whatsoever, belonging or appertaining to the said rectory of Easton Bavent, and hitherto accustomed to be paid to the rector thereof—saving always, and reserving to his Majesty and his heirs and successors, all first-fruits and tenths of both the said rectories hereby united, and all other charges due, or to be paid out of the same: and furthermore we do ordain and appoint, that so long as this union and consolidation shall stand and continue in force, the rector for the time being of the united rectories, shall yield and pay to us, and our successors, and to the Archdeacon of Suffolk, and to his official, and to our and their officers and servants, for the time being, and to their successors respectively, all procurations and synodals, pensions, and all other rights, payments, and emoluments whatsoever, either by law or custom, heretofore due, or accustomed to be paid by the incumbents of the said two rectories or either of them, for the time being, in as full and ample manner, as if this union had never been made, as well for the rectory of Easton Bavent, as for the rectory of Benacre. And to that end we do ordain and appoint that during this union the present rector and his successors, rectors of the said rectory of Benacre, do, shall now, and for the future, at the time of their admission, institution, and induction thereto, severally will, and truly pay, or cause to be paid, for and in respect of such admission, institution, and induction, all and singular the fees, dues, sum and sums of money in any wise due and payable to us, and our successors, to the Archdeacon and his official, or to any of our and their officers or servants above mentioned, or to the officers and servants of our Consistory Court, as well for the said rectory of Easton Bavent, as for the said rectory of Benacre. In testimony whereof we have caused our episcopal seal to be hereunto fixed, dated 7th day of March, 1747, and of our translation the tenth.

THO. NORWICH.

RECTORS OF EASTON BAVENT.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Joes Clement, de Sc ^o Edmundo .	1307	Richard de Gosbeck.
Joes de Hockham . . .	1314	Guardian of Ralph, son of Richard de Gosbeck.
Regin. de Inglose . . .	1321	Sir Thomas Bavent, Knt.
Symon Deneys . . .	1344	William Bavent.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Symon de Tydd	1349	William Bavent.
William Malyn	1349	Id.
Joes Godsweyn	1361	Sir John D'Argentein, Knt.
William de Caldcote	1361	Id.
Thomas Chevale		
Roger Britholme, ⁹ de Ocle	1376	Richard Cosyn.
Joes Wace	1392	Rob ^t ., son and heir of Sir John Schardelow, Knt.
Andrew Bryd	1427	Domina Ela de Schardelow.
Thomas Crow	1438	Ead.
William Boswell	1479	Thomas Hopton, Esq.
John Thurne	1507	
Thomas Wentworth		
Jacobus Corton	1521	Sir Arthur Hopton, Knt.
William Spooner	1523	Id.
Joes Fox	1562	Andrew Hopton, Knt.
Edward Blinchhorn	1590	Assig. of Will. Roberds, Esq.
Henry Watkins	1591	Iid.
Thomas Evans	1597	The Queen.
Robert Selby	1607	Guardian of William Roberds Smith, son of William Smith.
Samuel Garcy	1608	Id.
Philip Seaman	1620	
Richard Lewthwait	1666	Jeffry Howland, Esq.

Thomas Bavent est patronus illius. Rector habet mansum pertinen. ecclie, cum viij acris terre. Estimatio ejusdem præter portionem xvij marc. Portio prioris de Wangford in eadem xij^s. iij^d. Procuratio vij^s. vij^d. ob. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis. xij^d. et pro Paschali termino xij^d. Denarij S. Petri, iij^d.—Norwich Domesday.

A chapel, dedicated to St. Margaret, was founded at an early date in this parish, and annexed to the rectory.¹⁰ It seems to have possessed a great degree of sanctity and reverence; for pilgrimages were frequently made to St. Margaret Eston. It was probably standing in 1638, as a license for marriage to be solemnized in it was granted in that year. Gardner, who published his History of Dunwich in 1754, says it had fallen into irreparable decay, and was converted into a barn, but that a few fragments of it were visible in his time, and adds, "some people now living report that their parents told them that they remembered the chapel in a ruinous condition, with one bell, some painting and imagery, but no performance of divine worship." The same writer notices an interesting ceremony which took place in Easton, in 1748,

⁹ Roger, pson of the church of Easton Bavent, was one of the executors of Margaret de Argentein, who died in 1383.—Jermyn MSS.

¹⁰ Lib. Inst. Norwic.

of which he was an eye-witness. "Queen Anne's Bounty favouring this parish, publication was made for the celebration of divine service there on Trinity Sunday. The like not remembered, several persons out of a religious curiosity attended, where a barn was the temple, a chair and little table occupied the places of desk and pulpit; for pews were substituted stools, and benches; and the want of mats was sufficiently supplied by a plenty of straw that covered the area of the nave of the church. Prayers and the thirty-nine Articles of Religion were read in form, and psalm-singing twice; after that the blessing. Also notice was given that a sermon would be preached in the afternoon, which was a motive that induced many people to travel thither, so that our place of worship was pretty well filled. This made a lively impression in my memory of the relation of Glastonbury elder thatched church, with wicker walls. Prayers ended, and an edifying oration from 2 Timothy, chap. i. ver. 13, succeeded, with seasonable exhortations to adhere to the principles of the church of England, as by law established. The chorus thrice repeated, and the declaration of the Minister's assent to the afore-mentioned articles which he subscribed, to which I was then a witness, the auditory departed highly pleased with the entertainment they had; all things being done decently and in order, so far as the place would permit, by the Reverend Mr. North."

Fordley.

THIS village is now so united with the adjoining parish of Middleton, as to be considered little more than a hamlet of that place. Its name is written Forlea and Forle in Domesday Book, and it appears to have been divided into three or four small estates, when that volume was compiled. Of these, Robert Malet, lord of the Honour of Eye, held two; and there are some entries recorded under the descriptions of his property which singularly illustrate the condition of even free-men at that distant period. After noticing a small estate rented by Gislebert Blund under the above-mentioned chieftain, it is stated that there were three free-men here, named Suarting, Algar, and Herewold, who occupied their several tenures under the protection or patronage of Edric, but that Osfert lived partly under Edric's protection, but was the whole man—*totus homo*—or tenant of Tol.¹ This shows a singular division of

¹ Domesday, 314.

the "commendatio," or patronage, exercised by the Saxon gentry, more especially as this Edric himself is recorded in a previous page² as having held sixty acres of land, &c., with a mill, worth ten shillings, under the patronage of Edric of Laxfield, the owner of these estates, before they were granted by the Conqueror to Robert Malet. Edric, it appears, had been outlawed in the Confessor's reign, when the King seized all his lands; but being afterwards reconciled to him, these were restored by the monarch, who gave Edric his sealed writ, or warrant,³ that whoever of the free-men under his protection should desire to return to him, they might return by Edric's permission. King Edward seized the person of this Edric, after the Hundred found that he did not return to Edric (of Laxfield) his lord, when the former says, and brings proof that he has returned, and holds his free-men under his protection, of whom he recalls Robert Warent.

Roger Bigot also had estates in Forlea. Fifteen free-men held 115 acres of land, of whom thirteen were under the commendation of Normann, and the other two had been under the joint protection of Edric of Laxfield, and this Normann. Twenty acres of Bigot's estate belonged to Chylesheal (Kelsale), and nine lay in Stykelande.⁴

Richardus le Scott de Donwiche had license of free-warren in Fordle, Mismeer, Westleton, Middleton, Walpole and Dunwich, in 1263.⁵ In the ninth of Edward I., Richard de Weyland was lord of Fordley, which was held in the succeeding reign by Sir John de Weyland. Of this family was Sir Thomas de Weyland, the judge, whom Stow calls the King's chief justice. In the seventeenth of Edward I., he was found guilty of notorious bribery and corruption; his whole estate and his goods were confiscated, and he was banished the kingdom. Being convicted, and fearing to yield himself to the King's mercy, he went to a monastery of Gray Friars in Suffolk, and took on him the habit of that order; but being discovered by some of his servants, he was watched and guarded, and after two months' siege went out, forsaking his friar's cowl, and was taken and sent to the Tower. The manor of Fordley next passed to the family of Bavent, probably by marriage; for in 1307, we find Sir John de Bavent presenting to the church, with Joanna, his wife. About the middle of the reign of Edward III., Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Bartholomew, Baron Burghersh, and widow of Edward, Lord De Spencer, held the manor and advowson of this village; and early in the reign of Henry VI., James, Baron Audeley, was enfeoffed of the same. Robert Audeley presented in 1520. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Edward Honinge, Esq., was lord, from whom this manor passed to Edward Page, and from him

² Domesday, 310 b.

³ "Dedit etiam breve et *sigillum*." Here is an early, but certain proof of the use of seals, in the Anglo-Saxon period.

⁴ Domesday, 334, 334 b.

⁵ Carta 48 Hen. III. p. u.

to John Woodcock, Esq., who was also owner of a considerable landed estate in the adjacent village of Middleton. John Woodcock died in 1680-1, and left three coheireses: Catherine, the eldest daughter, married John Martin, jun., Gent., of Brundish; Honour, the second daughter, died unmarried; and Frances, the youngest, married the Rev. Thomas Meadows, of Benacre. Catherine Woodcock left issue by her marriage with Mr. Martin, two sons, John and Richard; and three daughters, Catherine, Martha, and Mary; of whom, John, Martha, and Mary, died young. In 1730, Mrs. Ann Freak held her first court for the manors of Middleton with Fordley, &c.; but by what transfer she became possessed of them I have not ascertained. Mary Freak, the daughter of Mrs. Ann Freak, derived this manor from her mother, which she held in 1751, and sold in that year to Eleazer Davy, Esq., of the Grove, at Yoxford, who died in possession of it, *inter alia*, in 1803. It was re-sold in 1827, to Mr. John Woods, of Darsham. On the death of this gentleman, in 1838, it was purchased by the Rev. Charles Montagu Doughty, of Theberton Hall, who is the present lord.

The patronage of the church was alienated from the manor after the presentation by Mrs. Ann Freak, when it became the property of John Harrison, Esq., who gave it to his nephew, the Rev. Daniel Packard, who by his will left it to David Elisha Davy, and Henry Jermyn, Esqrs., in trust, solely for the purpose of presenting it to his son, the Rev. Harrison Packard, who is the present incumbent.

THE CHURCH

of Fordley, now demolished, was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and stood in the same cemetery in which that of Middleton stands. These fabrics were so near each other, that complaint was made to the Bishop of Norwich, in February, 1620, that when service did not begin and end at both churches exactly at the same time, the bells and congregation of one church disturbed those of the other; and an order was made thereupon that the same minister should serve both, and officiate in Fordley church one week, and in Middleton the other; and this, perhaps, might occasion the letting down of Fordley church, which was but small.⁶ The only fragment of this edifice is a broken floor-stone, ornamented with a cross, which, being divided into two unequal portions, now serves as head and foot stones to the grave of the late parish clerk. Baty Cosin, widow of William Cosin, of Dunwich, by her will of the 2nd of February, 1510, bequeaths to the "pyrch" of Fordeley, 6*s.* 8*d.*; and Richard Huntman, of Middleton, by will, dated

⁶ Kirby.

22nd January, 1503, gives to the church of Fordley, 6s. 8d., and to the high altar therein, 12d.

The following coats of arms were formerly in this church :

1. B. 3 roses or.
2. B. a lion ramp. arg.
3. Arg. a chevron⁷

The rectory of Fordley was consolidated with the vicarage of Westleton, 14th May, 1806.

RECTORS OF FORDLEY.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Joes, fil. Osb. de Sproutone	1307	Sir John de Bavent, and Joanna, his wife.
Radulp. fil. Alani de Howell	1309	Id.
Radulp. de Huwele		
Johes Nudde, de Shotesham	1335	Id.
Joes Haukesbury	1387	Elizabeth, Lady Despencer.
William Cokk	1387	Ead.
Edmund Keobyle	1409	The King.
Thomas Wells, als Worm	1415	Edward, Duke of York, p. h. v.
William Westacre		Id.
John Salford	1419	Robert Andrew, and John Laurence.
John Fulford	1424	Richard de Bello Campo.
John Pydde		
John Becles	1433	James, Lord Audeley, and Eleanor, his wife.
Thomas Braytofte		
John Westle	1469	Humphrey Audeley, Esq.
John Newman	1478	Sir Thomas Brews, Knt., during the minority of John Audeley.
John Bard	1484	Elizabeth Brews, widow.
John Smith	1516	Richard Audeley.
Thomas Jeffery	1517	Id.
John Bekke	1520	Robert Audeley.
Laurence Growse	1530	William Purton, and others.
William Jaxon	1568	The Bishop, by lapse.
Augustine Skete	1577	Edward Honinge, Esq.
Nicholas Widley	1579	Id.
Nicholas Fawden	1584	Id.
John Perne	1612	Edward Page, Esq.
Samuel Jones	1633	John Woodcock, Esq.
Chileab Solley	1639	John Woodcock, Esq., and William Manning.

⁷ Church notes pen. Sir John Blois.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Robert Daliell	1661	John Woodcock, Esq., and William Manning.
Jos. Hudson	1664	Iid.
Benjamin Bayes	1677	Iid.
John Cooper	1727	Maria Martin.
William Bedford	1734	Ann Freak.
John Harrison	1753	John Harrison, p. h. v.
Daniel Packard	1805	Himself.
Harrison Packard	1820	David Elisha Davy, and Henry Jermyn, Esqrs.

Dominus Johannes Bavent est patronus illius. Rector habet mansum cum viij acris terre. Estimatur ad vi marc. d. Procuratio vi^s. viij^d. Synodalia per annum ii^s. Denarij S. Petri iv^d. ob.—Norwich Domesday.

Died, December, 1804, Rev. John Harrison, fifty years Rector of Fordley cum Middleton, in his own presentation, and Vicar of Westleton, in the gift of Mr. Crowfoot. He was of Trinity College, Cambridge, B. A. 1721; A. M. 1726.⁸

Fordley contains, independent of Middleton, 603 acres, 2 roods, 5 perches of land. Its population was not taken in the census of 1841 as a separate parish, and is accordingly included with the returns for Middleton.

Frostenden.

IN the Confessor's time, Toret held three carucates of land in Froxeden for a manor, and his estate appears to have been well stocked with cattle; which species of property formed the Saxons' principal wealth. The manor was 1 leuca and 24 perches in length, and 10 furlongs and 7 perches in width. Ran held two churches in this village, endowed with 28 acres of glebe, on which one plough was employed. But the most remarkable entry made in the returns of Froxeden was, that it possessed a sea-port for shipping, and had a salt-work, or salina, in the Confessor's time, the working of which was discontinued when the Survey was drawn up. This "portus maris," we suppose, must have been situated somewhere in the little valley now called Frostenden Bottom, through which a stream winds its way, by South Cove, and falls into Easton Broad; which piece of water must, at that period, have communicated with the sea, between the high lands now known as the sand cliffs, and then lying north of the promontory at

⁸ Gentleman's Magazine.

Easton. This circumstance, perhaps now little known, proves how many of the unimportant rivulets, which issue from the interior of the county into the German Ocean, were navigable for the small craft of early commerce, or ancient predatory warfare. Thus many streams which find their way to the sea, and are known to us as sluices only, were designated ports in former records, of which we need instance only one or two,—Mismere Haven, and Portus de Benacre,—though the list could be readily augmented. The manor of Froxeden was held at the Survey by Ralph Bainard, who had raised its value from 10*s.* to 14*s.*¹

In the fifty-first of Henry III., Gilbertus Frostenden, the descendant, probably, of one of Ralph Bainard's followers, and who, in conformity with the custom of the age, had assumed his name from the place of his residence or birth, had free-warren in the manor of Frostenden,² but in the ninth of the following reign, we find it the lordship and estate of Richard de Biskele.³ This Richard de Biskele, or a descendant of the same name, and who was in all likelihood of the same family as Sir Reginald de Biskele, who possessed a manor in Gisleham,⁴ held two knights' fees in Frostenden of Robert Fitzwauter, in 1327.⁵ Alicia de Frostenden also held a fee in this village of the same chieftain.⁶ Fitzwauter's fees were held of the barony of Bainard.⁷ The tenure of the Biskele or Bixley family appears to have terminated with this Richard, for in 1365, Alexander, Rector of Darsham,⁸ presented to the church, and was succeeded in this right by the families of Boys, Crane, Barentyn, and Manning; each of which presented in succession, the latter in 1425. William de la Pole, created Marquis of Suffolk in 1444, was next in possession of the manor and advowson of Frostenden, to the church of which he presented in 1446.⁹

In the sixteenth of Edward IV., Sir Edward Hungerford, John Heydon, and Humphrey Forster, by deed dated 20th November, released to John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth, his wife, sister of King Edward IV., to Walter Hastings, Robert Chamberleyn, James Tyrell, William Knyvett, Knts., &c., to the use of the Duke and Duchess, the lordships of Claxton, and Helgeton, in Norfolk, and those of Frostenden, Bacton, and Creeting St. Olave's, in Suffolk; which the said Sir Edward, &c., were seized of, to the use of William, late Duke of Suffolk, and the Lady Alice, his wife, deceased.¹⁰

¹ Domesday, 414 b.

² Carta, 51 Hen. III. p. u. m. 7.

³ Mag. Brit.

⁴ Vol. i. p. 244.

⁵ Harl. MSS. 5193.

⁶ Testa de Nevil.

⁷ Idem.

⁸ Lib. Instit. Norwic. This is a rather embarrassing statement. In the authority here quoted—the authenticity of which is beyond controversy—Alexander, Rector of Darsham, is said to have presented Robert Japyn to the church of Frostenden, in 1365, when I learn from the same record, that this Alexander was not himself presented to Darsham till the year 1399.

⁹ Idem.

¹⁰ Blomefield.

On the attainder of the De la Poles, in 1513, King Henry VIII. granted the manor of Frostenden, &c., inter alia, to Thomas, Lord Howard, and Anne, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies;¹¹ but they dying without issue, this lordship reverted to the Crown, but was re-granted, with the advowson, to the Suffolk family, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, presenting in 1528. In the Harleian MSS.¹² is a list of knights' fees held about the thirty-first of Henry the Eighth's reign, of this manor, by the families of Beaumonde, Codenham, Church, Walby, Pais, Blomefeld, Hopton, and Pyke, and by the Prior of Wangford, and the Abbot of Langley. Falling once more to the Crown, on the attainder of the Duke's issue, the manor of Frostenden was demised on lease, dated the 12th of December, in the fifth of Queen Mary, to Henry Partridge, for twenty-one years from the feast of St. Michael last past, at a rent of £ 7. 6s. 8d.¹³ It is therein called the manor of Frostenden Hall, with the appurtenances: the advowson, however, was not included in the lease, as we find the Crown presenting to the church till 1596. The manor and advowson were re-granted in the latter part of Elizabeth's reign to the family of Morse,¹⁴ with whom the tenure must have been short, for in 1626, William Glover, Esq., of Campsey High House, presented, being then the lord and patron, by purchase. This gentleman, removing from Campsey, resided at Frostenden Hall, where he died in the year above mentioned, at the age of 83. His descendants retained possession of this property for nearly a century and a half. On the 25th of August, 1714, William Glover, Esq., by will of this date, confirmed to Sarah, his wife, his capital mansion in Frostenden, wherein he resided, formerly settled on her in jointure, and he gave her his advowson and right of presentation to the living of Frostenden for life, to be disposed of by her, whensoever it should happen to become void. He devised to Robert Glover, his brother, his manor of Frostenden, with the free and copyhold rents, services, fines, and appurtenances, and his house, with the lands, &c., in Wrentham, which he purchased of Thomas Edgar, Gent., for his life; and if he should leave any lawful heirs, to them, and their heirs for ever. He further devised to Mary Glover, his sister, his house, &c., in Frostenden, &c., she committing no waste; and if Sarah, his wife, survived Robert, his brother, and he died without issue, then the manor of Frostenden, after the decease of Mary, the testator's sister, and also the estate at Wrentham, purchased of Edgar, should be to the use of Sarah, his wife, and he did thereby confirm them to her for life, after his brother Robert's decease without issue, subject to annuities. And after the determination of the respective lives of Sarah, his wife, Robert, his brother, without issue, and Mary, his sister, then all his estate in Frostenden and Wrentham, and his right of presentation

¹¹ Blomefield.¹² 370, fol. 28.¹³ Harl. MSS. 240.¹⁴ Kirby.

aforesaid, to the first and other sons of Thomas Glover, of Burgh Castle, Gent., successively, and to the several heirs male of their respective bodies. And for want of such son or sons of the said Thomas Glover's issue male, descending from them, then the last-mentioned estates to Glover Edwards, the son of Edwards, late of Thurlton, in Norfolk, for his life. And if he leave any heir male, then to such heir male, and his heirs, taking the name of Glover. Then all his estate aforesaid, to John, the son of John Ewen, of Raydon, in Suffolk, Gent., by Martha, his wife, one of the daughters of Lionel Holle, deceased, and his heirs for ever, if he leave any heirs male of his body: for want of such issue male, then to Martin, second son of the said John Ewen, &c.

On the 1st of June, 1724, the said William Glover, by a codicil of this date, after reciting that the said Thomas Glover, in his will named, had, since the making thereof, a son, baptized by the name of William, confirmed all his real estate, after the limitations, to the said William, son of Thomas, and his heirs male for ever. Mr. Glover, who thus devised the manor and advowson of Frostenden, died in September, 1726. By an attested copy of a certificate, signed War Office, 30th June, 1758, by Thomas Tyrwhit, Deputy Secretary at War, proved by the certificate of Major David Chapeau, Town-Major of Gibraltar, it appears that William Glover, late a second lieutenant in the regiment of North British Fusileers, perished on board his Majesty's ship the *Prince George*, which was lost on the 28th of April, 1758, he being then on his passage to join his regiment at Gibraltar. He was born, 12th March, 1738-9. Isabella, the widow of William Glover, and mother of Lieut. Glover, re-married John Daniel, Esq., and they mortgaged the aforesaid property for £1400, to John Martindale, of Sutton, in Surrey; and afterwards by deed, dated 1769, conveyed these estates to Roger Mainwaring, of the Inner Temple, London. Mr. Mainwaring, by his will, dated 21st May, 1784, after charging his Suffolk estates with certain legacies, devised the same to his three nieces, Elizabeth Mainwaring Ellerker, spinster, the Right Hon. Lady Charlotte de Ferrars, and Harriet Mainwaring Ellerker, daughters of Eaton Mainwaring Ellerker, and to his nephew, Thomas Onslow, the second son of the Hon. Arabella Onslow, his late niece, who was the other daughter of the said Eaton Mainwaring Ellerker, to be equally divided between them as tenants in common, and to their respective heirs, &c., for ever. This will was proved 6th March, 1788, by Elizabeth Mainwaring Ellerker, spinster, Charlotte, Countess of Leicester, and Harriet Mainwaring Ellerker, the executrices named in the said will.¹⁵ These estates, however, did not include the manor and advowson of Frostenden, &c., which were sold by Isabella Daniel, late Isabella Glover, and William Fowler, of

¹⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

Norwich, to Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart., of Benacre Hall, who, in 1791, presented to the church, and again in 1802, and 1806; and about the year 1809, re-sold this property to Edward Hollond, of Benhall, Esq. By this gentleman the advowson was separated from the manor, and sold to the Rev. Thomas Barne, from whom it passed by purchase to the Reeve family; Mrs. Reeve, of Lowestoft, being the present patroness. On Mr. Hollond's death, in 1830, his landed estates in Frostenden and Wrentham, including the manor of the former parish, were sold by his executors, for about £40,000, and were purchased in 1833 by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, who are the present possessors.

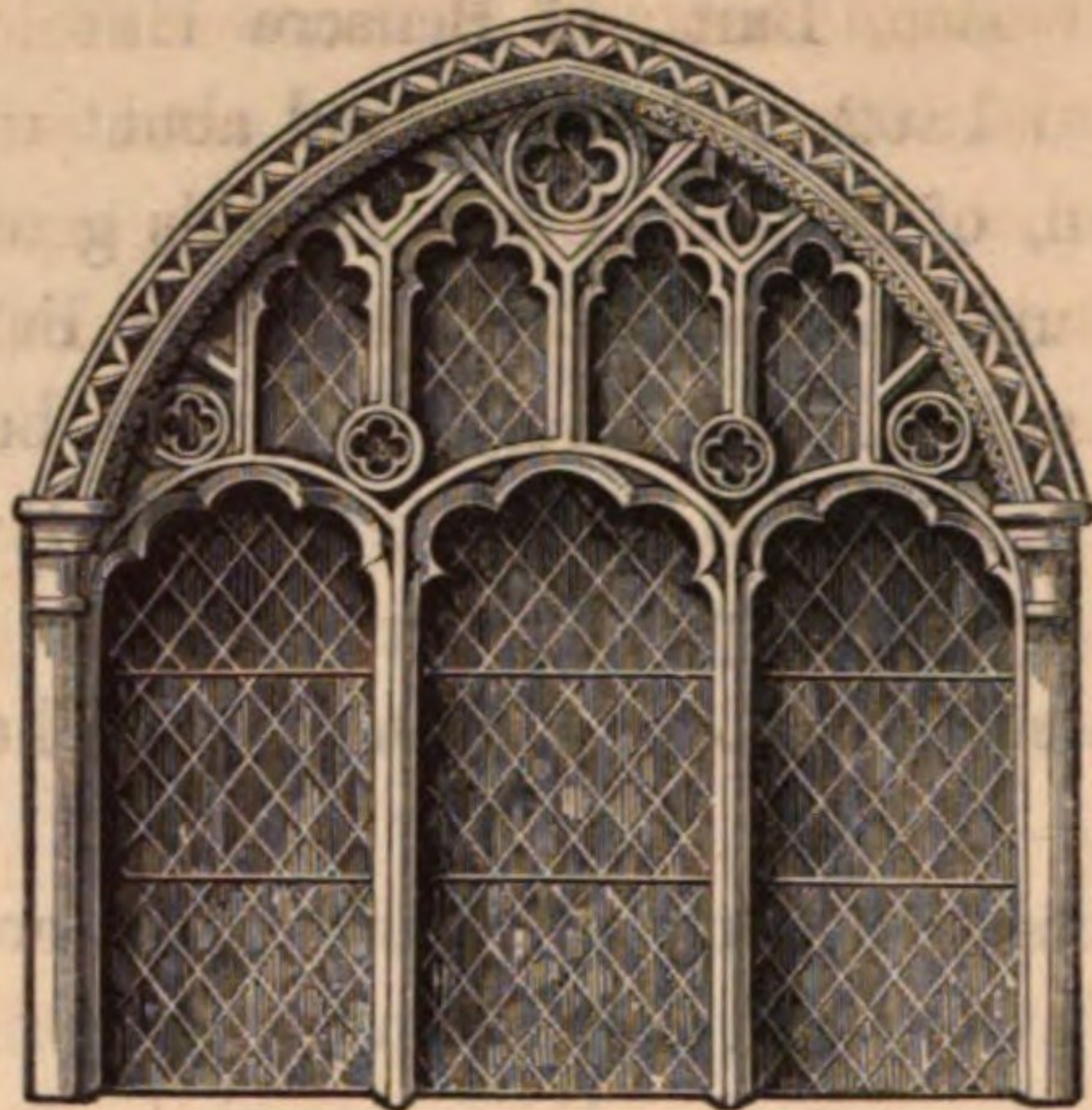
Frostenden Hall is a good old mansion, standing just north of the church, erected apparently about the reign of James I. It retains none of its ancient features, modern *improvers* having been too busy here. It is occupied by James Hingeston, Esq., son of the late Rev. James Hingeston, M. A., presented to the vicarage of Reydon in this county, in 1758, and author of a volume in 8vo, published in 1771, entitled 'Discourses upon the Covenants.' Mr. Hingeston died in 1777, leaving an unfinished manuscript on the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England, which has never been published.

THE CHURCH

is dedicated to All Saints, and is a plain unpretending edifice, erected in the reign of Henry III., as its circular tower, and chancel door, bespeak; though, like almost all our country churches, windows of a perpendicular character, and a few marks of the nondescript architecture of the Guelphic period, have been engrafted upon it. The tower is pierced with long pointed windows, and opens to the nave by a very narrow Gothic arch. One of its bells bears an inscription expressive of its dedication to the patron saints of the edifice.

Campana omnium sanctorum.

The nave is divided from a south aisle by an arcade of pointed arches, sustained by octagonal pillars, of the same attenuated proportions as distinguish those at Mutford and Benacre. There is a south porch, vaulted with stone, and the whole interior is in a neat and reputable condition. A good octangular font stands at the west end of the nave, but the most remarkable feature in the edifice is the east window of the chancel. This has a low arch, ornamented with the dog-tooth moulding, and filled with perpendicular tracery. Altogether, though a jumble of architectural styles, the effect is far from unpleasing.



In this window are inserted the arms of Barker, barry of ten, or and arg., a bend gules over all; which the ingenuity of some modern glazier has reversed. There is a piscina of early English character in the chancel, very like that at Blythford, of which an engraving has been given.

The parish registers of Frostenden commence in 1538, with the following preface :

"1538. In Dei noīe. Amen. The regester then begon and written the viijth daie of October, the daye of St Edward, the King and Confessor, of the weddings, christenings, and burialls, according to the Injunctions of our Sovarigne Lord, King Henry the 8th, King of England, Ffrance, and in therthe supreme head of the church of England, both of the spiritualitie and temporalitie, celebrated and ministrated in the p̄ishe church of Ffrostenden, by me, Robert Wood, p̄son of the said church, in the yeare of our said sovarigne lord, King Henrie the viij., xxxth."

The books contain no curious records, but there is the appointment of a lay registrar, signed by Rob. Brewster, of the adjoining village of Wrentham. His autograph is written in a very bold free hand.

"Ffrostenden. Whereas there is a Acte of Parliam^t made, bearing date the 24 daye of August, 1653, touching mariages, birthes and burialls, and the registering thereof, In pursuance whereof the inhabitants of the said towne of Ffrostenden att a meeteing, the 20th of September, 1653, did elect and make choyce of George Sepens, of the same towne, to be their parish register; and the said George Sepens, the 10th day of October, 1653, appeared beffore us, and was sworne upon the Evangelists to execut the said office of parish register in the said towne of Ffrostenden, according to the said Acte, to the utmost of his power. In confirmacon where of wee have hereunto sett o^r hande.

ROB. BREWSTER."

Frostenden church was visited on the 8th of April, 1643, by Dowsing, whose operations are thus noted in his 'Journal.'—"20 superstitious pictures, one crucifix, and a picture of God the Father, and St. Andrew with his cross, and St. Catherine with her wheel; 4 cherubims on the pulpit; 2 crosses on the steeple; and one on the chancel. The steps were to levell, which they promised to do." The crosses on the steeple appear to have excited Dowsing's very especial wrath, for he further

remarks, "And Mr. Ellis, an high constable of the town, told me he saw an Irish man, within 2 months, bow to the cross on the steeple, and put off his hat to it." The mutilations which the extremely fine poppy-heads of the open benches in this church have sustained, seem the work of some Goth of a later era than Dowsing, but perhaps not his inferior in indiscriminating barbarism.

Robtus ecclie de Frostendene, p. test. suum dat. . . . post fest. Aplor. Petri et Pauli, A° Dni. 1389, legat corpus suum sepeliend. in cancello ecclie sue de Frostendene; Memorat. Dnum Johem de Ulvestone, militem, patronum suum defunctum. Prob. 4^{to} die Oct. A° Dni. 1389.¹⁶

This testator was Robert Japyn, presented to the church in 1365.

Joes de Ulveston, miles, p. test. suum, dat. 22 die Maij A° 1393, legat corpus suum ad sepeliend. in ecclia de Frostendene, ante magnam crucem. Item legat ad celur. cancell. ejusd. ecclie c^s.

Johes Heydone, capellanus, p. test. suum, dat. die decollationis Sci Johis Baptiste, A° Dni. 1401, legat corpus suum sepeliend. in ecclie onum scorum de Frostendene, constituit extor. suos, Johem Aleyn, et Ricum Hervy. Probat. 19 Jan. A. D. supradict.¹⁷

Monuments.—Hic jacet Gulielmus Glover, Arm., qui obiit xx° die Septemb. anno Dom. 1726, æt. 83. Arms: Glover, sab., a fess embattled erm., between 3 crescents arg., impaling Sparrow. Ermines, 3 roses arg. M. S. Gulielmi Glover, Arm., filii unici et hæredis Gulielmi Glover, quondam de Ash, juxta Campsey, in hoc agro Suffolciensi, Arm^{ri}, qui in flagitiosâ istâ, et nunquam satis deplorandâ rebellione contra Carolum Regium optimum, in quâ omnia jura et leges everterentur, ingenti facultatum ejus labefactione, tam Regi, quam ecclesiæ, fideliter adhæsit. Vir fuit maximè liberalis, mitis, ac omnibus benevolens, meliori sanè seculo, et fortunâ dignus. Vixit ad optatum ac felicissimum Regis Caroli 2^{di} reditum, et obiit undecimo die mensis Martij, anno 1660, ætatis 42°. Maria, uxor Gulielmi Glover, Arm^{ri}, defunct. obiit April 2° an. Dom. 1694, æt. suæ 69. Hammondus Glover, Gen., ob. quarto die Janⁱ, et sepultus fuit sexto die mensis ejusdem, an. 1694. William Glover, Esq., a man true to his God, just to his country, and faithful to his friend, died 20th October, 1742, aged 28. Sarah, the wife of W^m. Glover, Esq., died 4th June, 1734, aged 76. Mary Glover, y^e only daughter of William Glover, Esq., and Mary, his wife, died 28th November, 1715. Thomas Glover, Gent., second son of William Glover, died 18th March, 1708–9. Robert Glover, Esq., died 19th May, 1741, aged 94. Miss Louisa Leekley, daughter of Deputy Leekley, of Basinghall Street, London, died 25th June, 1797, aged 29. Thomas Pretymen, Rector of this parish, died the last day of August, 1756, aged 43. Jane Barker, died 9th day of April, 1763, aged 29. Robert Barker, of Lowestoft, Merchant, her father, died 12th September, 1765, aged 66. Sarah Barker, his wife, and daughter of William Bell, late of Uggheshall, died 19th September, 1765,

¹⁶ Harl. MSS. 10, p. 134.

¹⁷ Idem, 139.

aged 65. In the same grave are deposited the remains of the Rev. William Bell Barker, their son, thirty-four years Rector of this church, who died 27th January, 1791, aged 61.

The Rev. Christopher Smear, M. A., late Rector of this parish, died 26th November, 1802, aged 62. Elizabeth, his wife, died 12th May, 1803, aged 59. In the churchyard is a tomb to the memory of Henry Robert, the only son of James and Elizabeth Hingeston, who died 29th April, 1837, aged 25.

There are among the armorial cognizances of the Glovers the following shields:

Glover of 4 coats.—1. Glover.—2. Sparrow.—3. Blennerhasset, with an annulet.—4. Glover.

Glover impaling Ferneley. Or, on a bend vert, 3 bucks' heads cabossed arg., attired of the field.

Glover quartered with 3 inescutcheons, probably Lowdham.

Also the shield of Mainwaring. Arg. 2 bars gules, a crescent in chief.

RECTORS OF FROSTENDEN.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Rogerus de Byskele . . .	1320	Richard de Byskele.
Robert Japyn . . .	1365	Alexander, Rector de Darsham.
Guido Crokedoh . . .	1389	Roger Boys.
Galfridus Moore . . .	1393	Thomas Crane.
Joës Pesenhale . . .	1416	Christiana, relict of Drugo Barentyn.
Henry Grup . . .	1425	Joës Manyng, de Elyngham, et Christiana, ux.
William Wynton . . .	1446	William de la Pole, Marquis of Suffolk.
Robert Watson . . .	1488	John, Duke of Suffolk.
Robert Wood . . .	1528	Charles, Duke of Suffolk.
Robert Thompson . . .	1554	Henry Gray, de Thrandeston.
Nicholas Hornsey . . .	1561	The Queen.
Gabriel Cornwall . . .	1579	Ead.
Thomas Uttyng . . .	1585	Ead.
Gulielmus Jones . . .	1596	Ead.
Joës Allen . . .	1626	Gulielmus Glover.
Joës Strowger . . .		
Francis Davy . . .	1660	Gulielmus Glover.
Thomas Colman . . .	1670	Maria Glover, widow.
Christopher Eachard . . .	1674	Ead.
Henry Welstead . . .	1693	Ead.
Joës Jessop . . .	1708	William Glover, Esq.
Samuel Bull . . .	1719	Id.
Thomas Meadows . . .	1729	Sarah Glover, widow.
Nunn Pretymen . . .	1742	William Glover, Esq.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Pretyman . . .	1743	Isabella Glover, widow.
William Bell Barker . . .	1756	R. Barker, Gent., p. h. v.
Christopher Smear . . .	1791	Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart.
George Wilson . . .	1802	Id.
Richard Gooch . . .	1806	Id.

Ricus de Byskele est patronus ejusdem. Rector habet mansum pertinen. ecclie cu. viij acris terre. Estimatio illius xvij marc. Procuratio vij^s. vi^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis. xij^d. et pro paschali termino xij^d. Denarij S. Petri vij^d. ob.—Norwich Domesday.

Charities.—The rent of three pieces of land called Church Marsh, &c.; one piece containing 8 acres, 32 perches, with a pightle adjoining of half an acre and 2 perches; also a piece of land of 2 acres, 2 roods, and 22 perches, all situated in the parish of Frostenden: to be applied in the payment of the repairs and ornaments of the church.

Population of Frostenden in 1841,—428 souls.

The total number of acres in this parish, according to the commutation map, is 1682, 3 roods, 12 perches, of which 372 acres are pasture, and 19 acres and 30 perches are waste and roads. The rent-charge in lieu of tithes amounts to £388 per annum, including £8 for the glebe lands. The rent of the glebes and parsonage cottage is £48 per annum.

Halesworth.

THIS town, though usually considered to be situated on the Blythe, appears rather seated on a contributory stream of that river, which, rising from several heads in the adjacent parishes, receives their united waters just above Halesworth bridge, and forms its northern arm. The Blythe, properly so called, rises in Laxfield, and traversing the villages of Ubbeston, Heveningham, and Walpole, passes south of the town. It is here a sluggish and muddy stream.

In the Saxon era of our history, the environs of this place formed the portion of a vast wood, capable of fattening annually nearly four hundred swine on the produce of its mast. At the time of the Norman Survey, however, this forest-like character of Halesworth had considerably altered; its timber appears, in great measure, to have been felled; for scarcely more than one hundred of these animals then found sustenance in its woods.¹ The enumeration of swine in the Domesday returns is every where care-

¹ Domesday, fol. 293, 299.

fully noted, as they formed a material item in the wealth of our Saxon ancestors; and their number is worthy of observation, as showing us the state of particular districts at that remote period. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, which terminated in the year 1066, Halesworth formed three lordships; which tripartite division of the parish yet exists under the names of the manors of Halesworth, Dame Margery's, and the Rectory manor. The first of these estates, at the Norman Survey, was the property of Earl Hugh,² and is thus recorded in Domesday. In the Confessor's time, Aluric held Healesuurd for one manor, with two carucates of land. There were then four villeins; now [at the Norman Survey] there are five. Then seven bordars were on the manor, now ten; there were always two servi, or slaves, and two ploughs employed on the demesne land. In Aluric's time, the tenants kept three ploughs, but now they have only two. Then there was wood-land sufficient to maintain three hundred swine, but now for one hundred only. There were always four acres of meadow, one mill, and one draught horse. Aluric kept six cows, the Norman Earl ten, and eighteen sheep. Then the value of the manor was thirty shillings, now it is forty.³

In the next century, we find the family of Argentein, or Argentine, enfeoffed of this lordship, which they held as a subinfeudation of the great manor or honour of Chester. Reginald de Argentein, who was lord in the reign of Henry II., derived his name and pedigree from David de Argentein, a Norman, who served under William the Conqueror. His name, spelt Argentoun, occurs in the Roll of Battle Abbey; and as it is repeated in Domesday Book,⁴ he was probably one of the martial knights actually present on the field of Hastings. Reginald de Argentein, who inherited the manor of Great Wymondley, in Hertfordshire, from his mother, the heiress of Guy Fitz-Tecon, held the office of hereditary cup-bearer to the King at his coronation, in virtue of that lordship. Hence his armorial cognizance of three covered cups argent, upon a field gules. He seems to have been connected by marriage with a family which assumed their surname from Halesworth, and granted their possessions here to his son.

“Oliver de Argenton deb. dim. marc. p. pleg. Reginald de Argenten, ut scribatur in magno rot. qđ Reginald de Halsward, patruus suus, dedit et concessit in coram baronibus Regis, ad Scacc. ap. Westmin.

² Hugh de Abrincis, surnamed Lupus, created Earl of Chester in 1070. He was nephew to William the Conqueror, being his sister's son, and must not be confounded with the other Earl Hugh, whose estates are returned in Domesday at division xxxi. The latter was Hugh de Montford, the son of Thurstan de Bastenbergh, and commonly called Hugo Barbatus, or Hugh with the beard; the Normans, at that time, being usually shaved. He fought at the battle of Hastings, and lost his life afterwards in a duel with Walcheline de Ferrars.—Dug. Baron.

³ Domesday, 299.

⁴ Camb. 202. Bedf. 216 b. In the former place he is called David de Argentomago; under the Bedfordshire entry, David de Argentomo.

totam terram suam de Halsward, quam dedit ei, jure hereditario, tenend. de Reginald de Argenton, pater ipsius Oliveri p. servic. xvj ptis feod. j. mil. pter terram de Walhage, et qd p̄dcus pater ipsius recognovit coram p̄dcis baronibus qd recepit homag. ipsius Oliveri de p̄dca terra cum ptin., et ei inde chartam suam fecit.”⁵

In the sixth and seventh of Richard I., Reginald de Argentein was Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, and in the ninth of the same reign served that office for Essex. Adhering to the cause of the rebellious Barons in the seventeenth of John, he had assurance of safe conduct to come to the King to treat of peace for them; but his embassy, at that time, failed. Making his own composition in the first of Henry III., his lands which had been seized on for that transgression were restored. The time of his decease is uncertain, but he was dead before the year 1223. Richard de Argentein, who had been one of the witnesses to Magna Charta, succeeded him. This Knight was Sheriff for Essex and Hertfordshire, and also for the counties of Cambridge and Huntingdon, and was constituted Governor of the castle of Hertford, in the eighth of Henry III. In the previous year, he gave the King two palfreys for license to hold a weekly market at his manor of “Halsworde,” and an annual fair on the eve, day, and morrow after the feast of St. Luke, October the 18th.⁶ In the eleventh of the same reign, he obtained, inter alia, a confirmation of this grant for his fair and market at “Hallsworthe,”⁷ and was appointed a steward of the King’s household. In 1229, or the following year, he went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, “being a noble knight and valiant in arms,” and died in 1246. Egidius, or Giles, his son and heir, was also a knight of great valour and prowess. He claimed the assize of bread and ale in his manor of Halesworth, though his authority to do so was questioned by the royal commissioners.⁸ Being with the King in Wales, in the sixteenth of Henry III., he was taken prisoner, with others, in battle with the Welsh, near Montgomery; but in the twenty-sixth of the same reign was summoned to attend the King to Gascony; and in 1262 was made Governor of Windsor Castle. Taking part with the Barons in the battle of Lewes, where King Henry was made prisoner, he was elected by them one of their counsellors for the government of the kingdom, but after their defeat at Evesham, his lands, and those of his son Reginald, who was with him in the insurrection, were seized by the Crown, but were afterwards restored; for in the eleventh of Edward I., he was found by an inquisitio post mortem, taken in that year, to have held Argentein manor in Melbourn, in Cambridgeshire, &c., and that of Great Wymondley, in Herts, by serjeantry, and the service of attending the King, on the day of his coronation, in

⁵ Ex Mag. Rot. Pip. de A°. 8 Ric. I.

⁶ Rot. Pip. de A°. 7 Hen. III. nova oblata. The fair is now held on the 29th of October.

⁷ Cart. 11 Hen. III. p. 1, m. 26.

⁸ Nescitur quo warranto. Rot. Hundred.

such place as the King's steward should assign for the performance of such service. Reginald Argentein was found to be his son and heir, of forty years of age, who did homage, and had livery of his father's great estates in the counties of Cambridge, Hertford, Norfolk, and Suffolk. In the thirteenth of Edward I., he obtained a grant of free-warren in his manor of Wymondley; and in the twenty-first of the same reign, had a charter for a new fair and market in his manor of Halesworth.⁹ In the twenty-fifth of this King he was summoned to Parliament as a Baron of the realm, though none of his issue received that honour. He married Lora, sister to Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who brought him the manor of Ketteringham, in Norfolk, and died in 1307, seized, inter alia, of the manor of Halesworth; which, by an inquisition, was returned as being held of the Crown in capite, as of the honour of Chester, by the service of one knight's fee.¹⁰

John de Argentein, his son and heir, was of full age at his father's death, and did homage, and had livery of his inheritance in the second of Edward II.; and in that year had a charter of free-warren for divers manors in the counties of Bedford and Herts, which he obtained in right of his first wife, the daughter and heiress of Sir Roger Bryan, Knt. He died in the twelfth of the same reign, leaving three daughters: Joan, married to Sir John Boteler, Knt.; Elizabeth, married to Sir William Boteler, Knt.; and Dionysia, who died single. These ladies were coheiresses of his first wife. By Agnes, his second wife, daughter of William de Bereford, who afterwards married, successively, Sir John de Nerford, and Sir John de Maltravers, he left an only son, John de Argentein, his heir, of the age of six months. In the following year, William de Bereford, his grandfather, compounded with the King for seventy-six pounds, to be paid out of the manor of Halesworth, for the wardship of this minor.¹¹ At the coronation of Richard II., this John de Argentein claimed the office of cup-bearer, in right of his manor of Wymondley, and died in the sixth of that reign. In the same year it was found that the said Sir John held at his death the third part of the manor called Brendehall, in Bumpstead at Turrem, in Essex; and that Margaret, the daughter of Joan, late wife of Bartholomew Naunton, Knt., daughter of Sir John; and Baldwin St. George, (son of Baldwin St. George,) and Alice, his wife, another daughter of the said Sir John; and Matilda, wife of Ivon Fitz-Warren, Knt., another

⁹ Cart. 21 Ed. I. p. u. m. 10.

¹⁰ Harl. MSS. 708.

¹¹ R. commisit Willo. de Bereford, seniori, custodiam manii de Halesworth cum ptin. in com. Suff. et manii de Keteryngham cum ptin. in com. Norff. et quasdam terr. et ten. cum ptin. in Melton, in eodem com. et quasdam tras. et ten. cum ptin. in Pudele, in com. Huntingdon, et quasdam terr. et ten. cum ptin. in Weston, in com. Hertford, et quasdam tras. et ten. cum ptin. in Keteringham, in com. pdco Norff. que fuerunt Johis de Argentyn, def. q. &c., et que rone minoris etatis Johis, fil. Johis. &c., hend, &c., usq. ad legitimam etatem, &c., reddo inde p. ann. sexaginta et sexdecem libr., &c.—Rot. Scac. de A°. 12 Ed. II. Rot. 7.

daughter of Sir John Argentine, were the three coheiresses of the said Sir John. And by another inquisition, taken in the seventh of Richard II., it was found that the said Sir John Argentine held the manors of Great and Little Wymondley, in Hertfordshire; and that the same persons were his coheiresses. Also by a third inquisition, taken in the same year, it was found that Sir John Argentine held for life, jointly with Margaret, his wife, of the grant of Adam Payne, Clk., the manor of Halesworth, in Suffolk, with remainder, after the death of the said Sir John, and Margaret, his wife, to Sir William Argentine, Knt., and Isabella, his wife.¹² Notwithstanding that these three daughters were found to be the heirs of Sir John Argentine, yet the above-named Sir William Argentine, who was an illegitimate son of Sir John, held the manor of Great Wymondley; and in the seventeenth of Richard II., served the office of Sheriff for Norfolk and Suffolk; and in 1399, at the coronation of Henry IV., by reason of this tenure, served the King with his first cup of wine; which cup he had for his fee, notwithstanding the petition which John Fitz-Warren presented to the steward, requiring that office in right of his wife, the Lady Maud, daughter and heiress of Sir John Argentine.¹³ Sir William Argentine died in the sixth of Henry V., and in the following year he was found, by an inquisitio post mortem, to have held, at the day of his death, the manor of Halesworth, together with the advowson of the church, of the honour of Chester, &c.; and that John Argentine was his heir.¹⁴ This John, who was the grandson of Sir William, died in the second year of Henry VI., when Elizabeth and Joan, his sisters, were found to be his heirs.¹⁵ Joan married Robert Allington, and died in the seventh of this King's reign, seized of a moiety of the manors of Great Wymondley and Halesworth, with a messuage, and a virgate of land in the latter town, together with the advowson of the church of Halesworth, with its appurtenances, &c., held of the honour of Chester, &c., and that Elizabeth, wife of William Allington, jun., was her sister and next heir, of the age of eighteen years and upwards.¹⁶

The family of Allington was descended from Hildebrand Allington, who married the daughter and heiress of John de Columbariis. William Allington, the eleventh in descent, was treasurer to Henry IV. in Ireland, and to Henry V. in Normandy. He married Joan, daughter of William de Burgh, and died in October, 1446. John,

¹² Johes D'argentein, Chr. tenuit die quo obiit, ad terminum vitæ suæ, ex concessione Ade Payne, clīci, conjunctione cum Margareta, uxore sua, maner. de Hallisworthe, cum advoc. ecclīe ejusdem ville, cum p̄tin. in com. Suff. Et quod quidem maner. post deces. ipsor. Johis et Margarete, remain. Willo Argentine, chr. et Isabelle, filie Willi. de Kerdiston, sibi et heredibus de corpore ipsius Willimi, et pro defectu totis exit. remaind. Johi Argentine, et hered. suis, de R. in cap. ut de honore de Cestrie. p. servie. j. feod. milit. &c.—Esch. 7 Ric. II.

¹³ Lansdowne MSS. 280.

¹⁴ Esch. 7 Hen. V.

¹⁵ Esch. 6 Hen. VI.

¹⁶ Esch. 7 Hen. VI.

the son and heir of William Allington, and Elizabeth Argentein, his wife, held the manor of Halesworth, with its appurtenances, in the thirty-ninth of Henry VI.¹⁷ John Allington, Esq., was lord in 1479, and Sir Egidius, or Giles Allington, Knt., in the reign of Henry VIII. In the sixteenth of James I., Sir Giles Allington, Knt., held his court for the manor of Halesworth, with view of frank-pledge, &c.; and in October, 1642, William, Lord Allington, held this lordship. On the 20th of October, 1651, Elizabeth, Lady Allington, held her court as lady of this manor, of which she was possessed in 1663. William Allington, second Baron Allington, in Ireland, was created Baron Allington of Wymondley, on the 5th of December, 1682. He died in 1684, leaving the manor of Halesworth, inter alia, during the minority of his son, to Diana, his widow, daughter of William Russell, fifth Earl, and first Duke of Bedford. On the 22nd of July, 1686, was held the court baron, with view of frank-pledge, and court of pie-powder, of this lady, under the title of "the court of the most noble Diana, Lady Allington, widow, mother and guardian of the most noble Egidius, Lord Allington, Baron Allington of Wymondley and Killard." In right of the manor of Wymondley, Hildebrand Allington, Esq., uncle to this Egidius, Lord Allington, then under age, at the coronation of James II., on the 23rd of April, 1685, presented to his Majesty, on the knee, the first cup of wine in a silver bowl, gilt; who having drank it, returned the cup to the bearer, which he received as his fee. By the Lady Diana, Lord Allington left issue two daughters: Catharine, the eldest, who married Sir Giles Napier, of the county of Dorset, Knight and Baronet; and Diana, the youngest, who became the wife of Sir George Warburton; and also three sons, Giles, or Egidius, Baron Allington, who died, at the age of ten years, in 1691; Hildebrand, who also died a minor, in 1685; and Argentine, who died young, on the 25th of March, 1682.

The manor of Halesworth, with the advowson of the church, next passed to the family of Betts. William Betts, Gent., held his court for the manor, on the 31st of July, 1706; and Dorothea Betts, widow, held her court for the same, on the 24th of April, 1711. In 1736, Thomas Betts, Esq., was lord, and presented in that year to the church; but sold the lordship and advowson, in 1739, to Walter Plumer, Esq. Jane Plumer, widow, presented Richard Whately¹⁸ to the rectory, in 1822. Upon the general sale of the Plumer estates, in 1833,¹⁹ the manor of Halesworth was purchased by Mr. John Cutts, a solicitor at Witham, in Essex, who re-sold it about four years since to John Crabtree, Esq., who is the present lord. The advowson, however, is now alienated from the manor, and belongs to the family of Badeley. The manor of Halesworth has this peculiar custom, that a

¹⁷ Harl. MSS. 503.

¹⁸ The present Archbishop of Dublin.

¹⁹ *Vide* page 198.

copyhold tenant cannot lease for a longer term than one year, without the license of the lord.

Alienation of the site of the manor has taken place above two centuries; for by a deed dated April 20th, 1621, eighteenth of James I., Thomas Shipdam, of the city of Norwich, merchant, sold to Josiah Fawethur, of Halesworth, Esq., the site or manor-house of the manor of Halesworth, situated in Halesworth aforesaid, with all and singular the houses, &c., containing in the whole 45 acres; and two woods, anciently called the Home Wood, and the Halmore, now, or late converted into land, meadow, or pasture; and all that meadow, parcel of the demesnes, called the Lord's Fen, otherwise Rush-fen, containing by estimation four acres, holden by copy of court-roll of the said manor of Halesworth, and lately given unto John Shipdam, brother of Thomas, by the will of Thomas Shipdam, the father, &c.

In 1697, Bridget, wife of Robert Gooch, Gent., one of the daughters and coheiresses of Anne Fawether, and Samuel Fawether, Esq.; and Anne Reeve, daughter of Elizabeth Reeve, deceased, another of the daughters and coheiresses of the aforesaid Samuel and Anne, were admitted to the site of this manor.

On the 25th of May, 1725, John Houghton, Esq., was admitted to these estates on the surrender of the Gooches; and in 1763, John Houghton, his only son and heir, was admitted, who surrendered them in April, 1778, to Edward Carman, whose son, Edward, was admitted as his heir on the 29th of October, 1796.

Messrs. Robert and John Smith now hold the site of the manor of Halesworth, which they purchased of the Rev. Jeremy Day, of Hetherset, in Norfolk.

The following is a list of tolls payable by any person or persons, placing any stall or stalls, or exposing any wares or merchandize for sale, in the market-place of Halesworth, to the lord of the manor.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Stalls with customers in common	0	3	Four-wheel carriage	4	0
Single pot stall	1	0	Two-wheels do.	3	0
Double do.	2	0	Neat beasts, per head	0	2
Single stall tilted	1	0	Sheep and lambs, per score	0	3
Do. not tilted	1	0	In pens, do.	0	4
Double do.	3	0	Horse	0	4
Pig carts, each	0	2	Sacks and hampers, each	0	1
Poundage money, per head	0	4			

DAME MARGERY'S MANOR

is, probably, so called from Dame Margaret, the wife of Sir John Argentein, who died in 1385. But as this date is subsequent to the statute "De Prærogativâ Regis,"

passed in 1324, which is the latest edict prohibiting the process of subinfeudation, or the creation of dependent manors, it must have existed as a separate lordship before this period. It is not improbable, therefore, that it is the same estate as that held by Alan, Earl of Richmond, at the Norman Survey, and which is thus described in that record.²⁰ In Halesword five free-men held one carucate of land, and two bordars, with one acre of meadow; and wood, which in the Confessor's reign fattened sixty swine, but which at the Survey maintained only twenty. Or it might have been the estate which Roger Bigod held for a small manor at the same period, in this village, and which was then valued at three shillings.²¹ Dame Margery's manor has for a long time been in the possession of the owners of the principal lordship of Halesworth; but it cannot be ascertained from the court books, at what date they obtained it. It is not amalgamated, however, with that manor, but is still a distinct property, with separate courts, which are held under its ancient designation.

THE RECTORY MANOR

is clearly traced from Saxon times. Ulf, a priest, held it in the reign of Edward the Confessor, when it comprised forty acres of land, with two bordars, and wood sufficient for six swine. It had four acres of meadow, fourteen sheep, and two goats; and its value was five shillings. One plough was employed on the demesne lands. To this manor, also, were attached four free-men, who held sixty acres of land, with two bordars, and two ploughs; valued at 10 shillings. At the compiling of the Conqueror's Survey, Earl Alan challenged, or claimed for his own seizin, the lands of this Ulf, and his four free-men.²²

At a general court, holden on Saturday, the eve of Palm Sunday, in the twentieth of Henry VIII., it was recited that at the last court the bailiff was ordered to seize half an acre of land, with parcel of a grange, and a tenement thereon built, and one piece of land called Marlpit-land, containing by estimation three roods; after an alienation made thereof between William Norman, and Margery, his wife, on the first part, and the town of Halesworth, on the other part, twelve years since, and more; and that the said town had occupied the said, without license of the lord. The lord re-granted the said premises to Alexander Fylley, &c. The manor is still appended to the rectory, and courts are held, and manorial rights exercised by the Rector. The Rectory manor is mentioned in the terriers as "a small manor belonging to the rectory, to which several free and copyhold tenants owe suit and service."

Halesworth carries on a considerable trade in malt, grain, timber, and general

²⁰ Domesday, 293.

²¹ Idem, 333.

²² Idem, 299.

merchandize, especially in the former department, and some of its malting-houses are amongst the largest in the county. The river on which it is situated was rendered navigable hence to Southwold for small craft, called wherries, about the middle of the last century. On the 12th of August, 1757, the following survey was made :

“A survey of the river Blythe, from Blythborough bridge to Mr. Shimming's grounds near Halesworth bridge, in order to judge whether the same can be made navigable.

“At Blythborough bridge the tide flows into the said river from Southwold Haven through the bridge thirty-six feet water-way, and waxes five feet there at common spring tides, and three feet at common neaps. From thence to Blythford dam, the said river is, at an average, about twenty feet broad; has about two feet depth of water at low water, and that water is about two to four feet below soil, and runs in a crooked course; the soil mostly clay; in some places gravel at about four feet deep, below soil. Distance two miles, seven furlongs. From thence to Wenhaston bridge, six furlongs, the river is, at an average, about eighteen feet broad; has about two feet depth of water, and that water about eighteen inches below soil, and runs in a crooked course. The soil morass and clay to four feet deep, and then a hard gravel. Wenhaston mill-pens about five feet head, when the tail-sheets are clear. The dam is formed on the sides of a gravel hill, by a bank fortified with tiles; and for a furlong above the mill 'tis about forty feet broad, and three feet deep at a full head, but five furlongs from thence to chapel bridge it is not above fifteen feet broad, and extremely crooked. From chapel bridge to the junction of Walpole river with Blythe, the river is, at an average, about twenty feet broad—four and a half furlongs—has two feet, and that water about three feet below soil when the mill has a full head; the soil morass and clay to four feet deep; then hard gravel; not very crooked. From thence to Mr. Knight's pasture the river is, at an average, about twelve feet broad, twelve inches deep in water, and the water is about two feet below soil—four furlongs—extremely crooked. The soil various to four feet—then very hard gravel. From thence to Mr. Shimming's pasture near Halesworth bridge, the river is about twelve feet broad, from nine to twelve inches deep in water, about three feet below the soil; the soil principally sand and gravel—one furlong and one half—total length five miles, four furlongs. Thus far I am of opinion that it is possible to make the river navigable, but no further, without being at a much greater expense than the convenience will answer. But it is absolutely necessary that the water-mill at Wenhaston be purchased by the commissioners, in order to have the command of water that will be necessary for the business of the navigation. The method I would humbly propose for carrying this work into execution, with an estimate of the expense, is contained in another sheet of paper, marked No. 2.—LANGLEY EDWARDS.”

There is a scarce tract, printed at London in black letter 'by Nicholas Okes, for John Wright, dwelling in Pie Corner,' 1620, entitled 'The cry and revenge of blood, expressing the nature and haynousnesse of wilfull murther, exemplified in a most lamentable history thereof, committed at Halsworth in High Suffolk, and lately convicted at Bury assize, 1620.' It contains two wood-cuts, and is "dedicated to the right-worshipfull Sir Henry North, High Sheriffe of the county of Suffolk, together with the rest of his Majesties justice of peace in that county." This rare work was written by Thomas Cooper, and is a desultory performance, "the maine roote and ground whereof was this. One Mr. Norton, dwelling in the towne of Halsworth in High Suffolke, being a man (though of faire possessions) yet of a very foule and evill favour, both in regard of his profession, as being no better than a church-papist, the most dangerous subject the land hath, envied the land of his neighbour, Widow Leeson, and compared to David coveting Naboth's vineyard, murdered two of her sons, and a daughter, and concealed them in a pit, which, when emptied, discovered the skeletons," &c.²³

The town is a polling-place for the eastern division of the county, and the magistrates of the Hundred of Blything hold petty sessions here.

It appears that lands were held in 'Hallisworthe,' in the reign of Henry VIII., by Robert Downes, with license of alienation to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, and his heirs; and that the same nobleman obtained the estates of the dissolved monastery of Rumburgh in Halesworth, Holton, Long Melford, Strawlington, Hedington ad castrum, Mendlesham, Wangford, Thurston, Stonham Aspal, Dagworth, Dawkin, Newton, Lidgate, Chilton juxta Clare, Waldringfield, Sudburie St. Peter, St. Gregory, and All Saints, in that town, &c.

Halesworth lies at the bottom of an amphitheatre of hills which entirely exclude it from distant view. As a modern town it cannot be said to be well built, though it seems to have been once rich in specimens of domestic architecture, vestiges of its picturesque beauty still remaining. In the principal street, near the bridge, is a portion of a residence, in which a moulding exhibits some "carving quaint" in high relief, and which would be deserving of illustration were not its subject founded on the grossness of heathen mythology. In the old market-place stands a venerable but dilapidated mansion of timber of considerable extent. It was, probably, the witness of many a festive scene in the later Tudor days, but is now degraded to an inferior condition. Part of it forms a public-house, known as the "Three Tuns," and the residue is subdivided into cottages. Of the residence called "le chauntry-

²³ A copy of this curious tract, in excellent condition, is in the possession of W. S. Fitch, Esq., of Ipswich.

house,"²⁴ in ancient deeds, no vestige remains, nor does tradition preserve any memory of its site or history. But there is a mansion facing the south side of the parish church, whose long front, though now filled with sashed windows, is still indicative of former consequence. The lower portion of its central projecting bay, which forms the porch of entrance to the house, is the only exterior feature which preserves its original appearance. It is not a little singular, that the pendants and carvings of this porch are of deal; the adoption of which wood, instead of oak, arose, it is presumed, from the novelty of that material, which certainly had not been extensively used in architecture at the period when it was here employed.

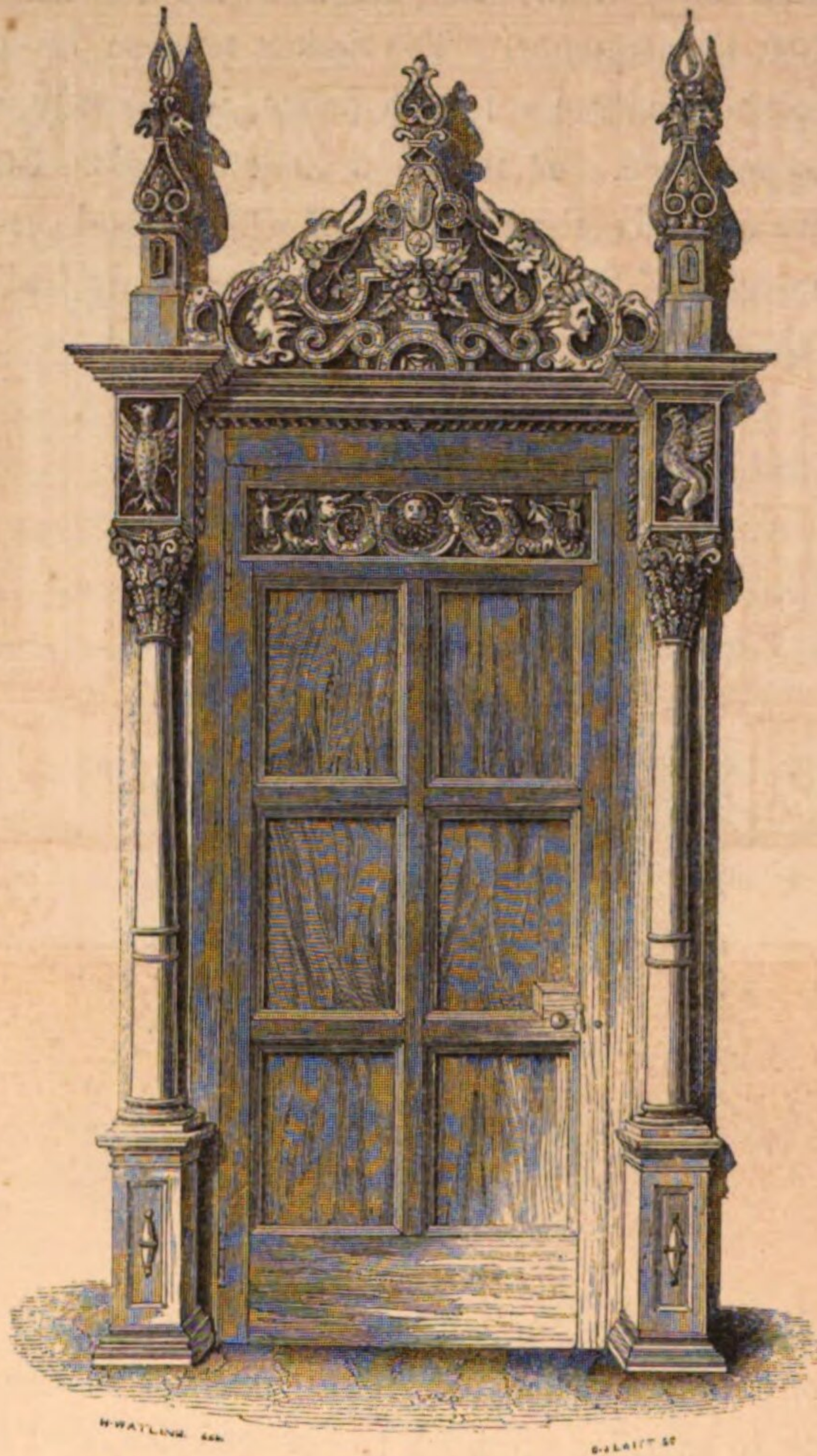


The house was evidently constructed in the form of a half *H*, the walls being principally composed of timber; and having been erected in tranquil times, when its architect was "at liberty to sacrifice strength to convenience, and security to sunshine," never possessed any of those external means of defence, with which the old manor-house of the previous century was invariably, and of necessity, environed.

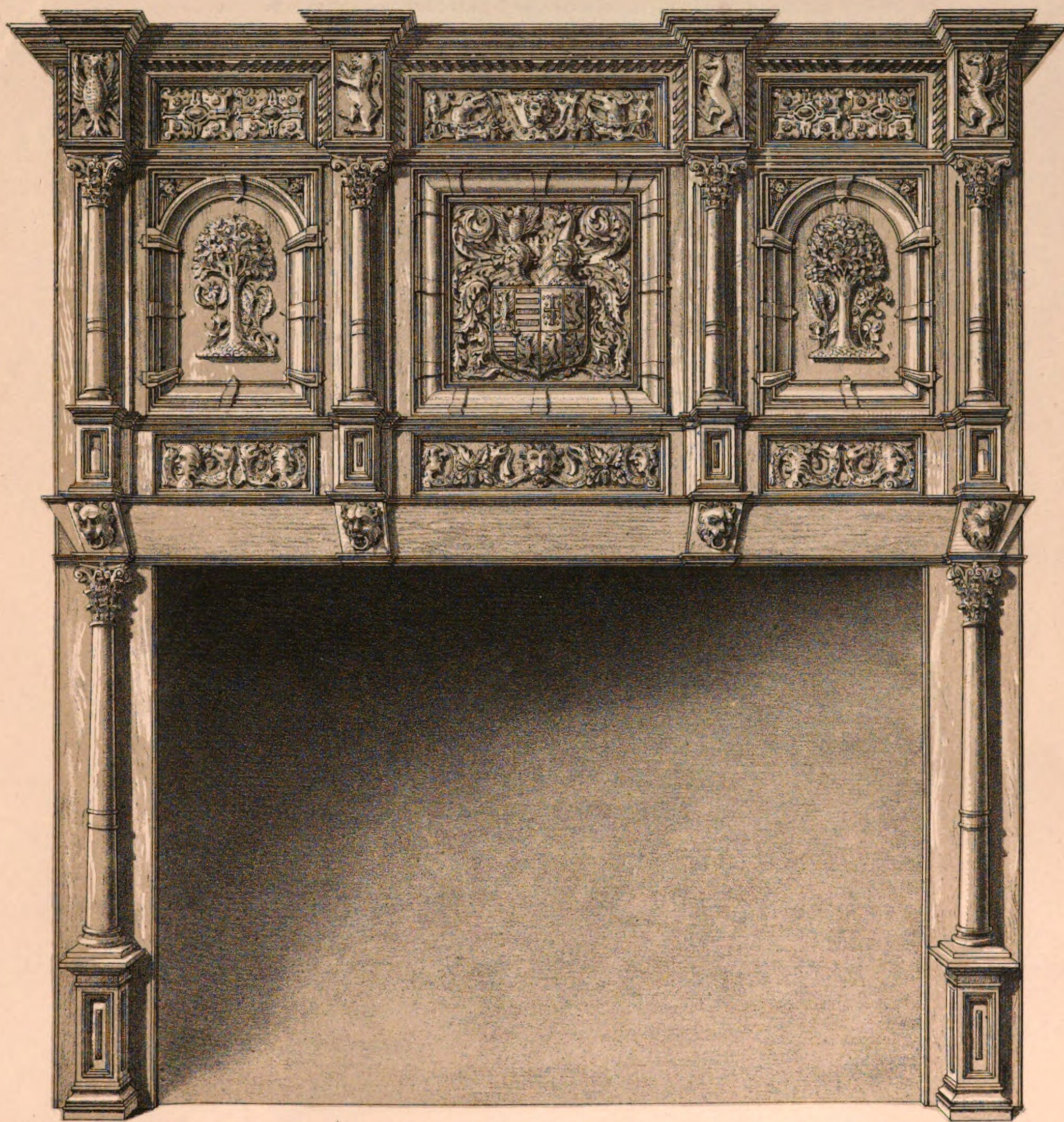
Its interior decorations are coeval with the oldest portion of the edifice. The parlour on the left hand of the hall was wainscoted with oak panel, wrought with carvings of festoons and armorial bearings. One of its principal embellishments was a doorway, in the design of which an attempt at classical taste is singularly mingled.

²⁴ *Ltre patent. confect. Robto Norton de domu vocat. le Chauntry-house, cum p̄tin. in Halesworth.* Is it probable that this Robert Norton was an ancestor of the Mr. Norton mentioned above as the perpetrator of the foul murder there described?

with fantastic scroll-work, grotesque profiles, and heraldic devices; producing, notwithstanding this anomalous combination, a rich and not unpleasing effect.



By no means inferior in profuse decoration, and following the same capricious taste, was reared its high and spacious mantel-piece, in the central compartment of which appears the armorial cognizance of the family who probably built and certainly resided for several generations in this mansion. Though attended with some heraldic difficulties, the shield is evidently the achievement of John Bedingfeld, Esq., a cadet of the ancient house of that name. It displays their soaring eagle quartered with Fleming; in the carving of which latter coat is a slight heraldic error. The impalement is that of Morgan, of four coats; though it is very remarkable that the griffin segreant sable, which, on a field or, is the bearing of that family, occupies the last quarter. Following this inverted order of marshalling the arms, the next device



ANCIENT MANTEL PIECE.

FROM AN OLD HOUSE, HALESWORTH.

H. Watling Del^s

London, Published by the Author

Printed by Scarsdale & Co

F. Bedford Lutho London

is that of an unicorn erect—possibly the coat of Harling—then comes a lion rampant; and finally a cross flory, between twelve passion nails, or what should perhaps have been guttee de poix. In 1571, Henry Beddingfield, described as of Halesworth, was witness to a deed, now in the possession of Sir Charles Blois; but the John Bedingfeld, who was also an inhabitant of the same town, and who appears to have been a counsellor, and a justice of the peace, was baptized at Bedingfield, in Suffolk, on the 8th of March, 1595, and was buried at Halesworth on the 28th of May, 1680. According to the family pedigree,²⁵ he was the son of Thomas Bedingfeld, Esq., buried in Darsham church, and brother to Philip Bedingfeld, Esq., of Ditchingham, and Sir Thomas Bedingfeld, also buried at Darsham, who was one of the Judges of the Common Pleas. By Joyce, his wife, daughter and coheiress of Edmund Morgan, of Lambeth, in Surrey, John Bedingfeld had a numerous issue; among whom were Edmund Bedingfeld, of Halesworth, Esq.; Thomas, M.D.; John, buried at Isleworth; Sir Henry Bedingfeld, Knt., Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; Sir Robert Bedingfeld, Lord Mayor of London in 1707; Anthony, &c. The latter, who was a merchant in Halesworth, gave by his last will and testament the interest of £ 50 to be paid to the poor of that parish for ever.

The mansion of the Bedingfelds is now the property of the Rev. Jeremy Day, of Hetherset, in Norfolk, but the ancient fittings, just described, have lately been removed from the apartment in which they were falling a prey to neglect and decay, to the library of the Rev. S. Blois Turner, of Halesworth, and form an appropriate shrine for the varied and valuable collection of antiquities possessed by that gentleman. Among other articles of curiosity preserved by him are relics of the Spanish Armada, and the celebrated "Sole Bay Fight." Among the former is a long and formidable musket, fitted with a lock of very excellent workmanship, the charge in which was ignited with either flint or match, at the option of the bearer. On the barrel are inscribed the following words, expressive of the exterminating spirit which directed that formidable attempt at invasion: "✠ Ibis in hereticos." The weapon is said to have been taken from one of the Spanish ships, wrecked off the coast of Suffolk. The memorial of the latter achievement of British valour is a small full-length portrait of a child, painted on panel, and discovered by Mr. Turner in a cottage, where it is said to have been preserved ever since the period of the "fight." Tradition asserts it to represent a child of one of the Dutch commanders, whose ship is supposed to have fallen into the hands of the English.

In the Hundred Rolls are two entries connected with Halesworth, which are worth recording here, as disproving an idea, perhaps very generally entertained, that the open

²⁵ Pen. J. J. Bedingfeld, of Ditchingham, Esq.

and waste lands of the country, which in the thirteenth century must have been very extensive, were not an object of great attention to their possessors. It appears, however, that the smallest aggressions were not unnoticed.

Itm dnt qd Egidi. de Argithem, Robs. Temprenoyse, et Hen. Blench fecut p^r. pstur. arand. sup. regal. viam ptin. ad maniu de Westhall, qd tenet. de dno in capt. Itm idm Hnr. Blench appavit si. herbag. xx p. in long. i una regal. via i Halsworth, i. pjudm. Dni. R.²⁶

Among the ministers of this town, Mr. John Argall, presented to the rectory in 1580, appears pre-eminent for learning and worth. He was descended from a Cornish family, but born in London, and was afterwards entered as a student of Christ Church, Oxford. While resident there, he became known as an acute disputant, and a very ingenious actor of plays, particularly distinguishing himself when Queen Elizabeth was there in 1566. On his appointment to the incumbency of Halesworth, he became distinguished among the neighbouring clergy by his learning and abilities, but being much devoted to his studies, he was unmindful of his worldly concerns, and died poor. Of his poverty he was accustomed to speak thus: "That whereas the great God had raised many of his cronies and cotemporaries to high dignities in the church, as Dr. Bilson, Bishop of Winchester; Toby Mathews, to the See of Durham, &c.; he was detained in the chains of poverty by his great sins, that he might repent with the prodigal, and at length, by God's favour, obtain salvation." He died suddenly during a feast at Chediston, and was buried in Halesworth church, October the 8th, 1606. He wrote a book, 'De verâ penitentiâ,' and a work entitled 'Introductio ad artem dialecticam,' both printed at London, the former in 1604, and the latter in the following year.

"The Rev. George Richards, D.D., V.P.R.S.L., and F.S.A., was the son of the Rev. James Richards, Vicar of Rainham, in Kent, and was a native of Halesworth, of which parish his father was then curate. He was born in 1768, and educated at Christ's Hospital; and at the age of seventeen stood for and obtained a scholarship at Trinity College, Oxford, as a member of which society he had been previously matriculated, March 10, 1785. His academical career was marked with splendid success: no young man was more beloved by his contemporaries, none more highly esteemed by the seniors of his college, and he exhibited throughout a rare example of great natural talent, unwearied diligence, and almost unexampled modesty, which, combined with a naturally mild and amiable disposition, endeared him to every class of academical society. In 1787, he obtained the Chancellor's prize for Latin Verse, on the Royal visit to the University, 'Rex, a violentâ Regicidæ manu ereptus; cum Reginâ Oxonium invisens;' and in 1788 (Nov. 4) took his first degree as B.A. In the same year, he was a candidate at the election for three Vinerian scholarships, but did not succeed; a failure to which probably may be attributed his abandoning the study of the law, and his determination to embrace the church as his profession. In 1789, he gained the prize for the English Essay, 'On the characteristic difference between Ancient and Modern Poetry, and the several causes from which they result;' and in the following year, was elected to

²⁶ Rot. Hund.

a fellowship at Oriel. In 1791, he was again successful, obtaining a prize in English Verse, on the subject of 'the Aboriginal Britons.' A greater degree of importance was attached to this prize at the time, as no competition for English poetical composition had taken place for twenty years, there being no regular provision for such a prize. In the present instance, the 'unknown benefactor' was supposed, and not without good grounds, to have been George Simon, Earl Harcourt, who, from that time, became Mr. Richards's firm and attached friend. The whole of the first edition of this poem was sold on the first day of publication.

"Mr. Richards took his Master's degree July 11, 1791, and continued at Oriel for the next few years, during which time, several young men of rank and fortune became his private pupils, for we are not aware that he was ever appointed to a College tutorship. Among these were some near relatives of Dr. Buller, Bishop of Exeter, who procured for him the presentation to one of the portions of the vicarage of Bampton, and the Rectory of Lillingston Lovel, both in Oxfordshire, the former in 1796, and the latter in 1795. In 1796, he married Miss Parker, the sister of the bookseller of that name, in Oxford, and from that time resided at Bampton, where his sound judgment and active mind, together with a kind and most benevolent disposition, rendered him eminently useful, and universally beloved and respected. On June 30, 1820, he accumulated the degrees of B. and D.D., and in the same year the present Archbishop of Canterbury, then Bishop of London, removed him to a sphere of more extended usefulness, by presenting him to the living of Saint Martin's in the Fields. His exertions in that parish, his liberality in providing for the spiritual wants of his parishioners, by appointing, at liberal salaries, several young clergymen, who, under his own eye and immediate advice and instructions, took charge of their respective districts, and his general munificence, more especially that of erecting the present vicarial house at his own exclusive cost, and largely contributing to the new Chapel in Exeter Street, are matters of public notoriety. Finding, however, the infirmities of age approaching, and feeling that he should soon be unable to continue those bodily and mental exertions, which he knew were necessary for the well-doing of so extensive a charge, he at once determined to resign; and in 1835, he gave up St. Martin's, amidst the regret of (we may say) every individual of respectability in the parish. A subscription, second, we believe, to none that was ever collected for a similar purpose, was entered into by the parishioners, in order to present him, on his departure, with a token of their reverence and esteem. On March the 30th, 1837, he departed this life, at his residence in Russell Square, in the 69th year of his age.

"The funeral of Dr. Richards took place on the 6th of April, at the church of St. Martin's in the Fields, when his body was deposited in a new vault, which had recently been made for him. The hearse was followed from his residence by seven mourning coaches, containing the friends and relations of the deceased: amongst the private carriages, were those of the Bishop of London, Lord Henley, the Rev. Sir H. Dukinfield, Alderman Winchester; and the service was read by the Vicar, and the body was met at the church porch by twelve other clergymen.

"At a meeting of the Committee of Governors of the Charing Cross Hospital, on Monday, April 3, it was resolved, 'That this meeting receive, with deep sorrow, intelligence of the decease of the Rev. Dr. Richards, the late excellent and amiable Treasurer of this Hospital. With a grateful sense of the benefits conferred upon the charity by his zealous exertions in its establishment and support, and with a sincere and affectionate remembrance of his uniform kindness, the Committee direct it to be recorded in their minutes, that, by the lamented decease of the Rev. Doctor, the Hospital has been deprived of one of its best friends, and the cause of humanity of one of its best benefactors.'

"The following is a list of Dr. Richards's publications:

"An Essay on the Characteristic Differences between Ancient and Modern Poetry, and the several causes from which they result, 1788, 4to—The Aboriginal Britons, 1791, 4to—Songs of the Aboriginal

Bards of Britain, 1792, 4to—A Sermon, 1793, 4to—Modern France, a Poem, 1793, 4to—Matilda, or the Dying Penitent, a Poetical Epistle, 1795, 4to—The Divine Origin of Prophecy illustrated and defended, in eight Sermons, preached at Canon Bampton's Lecture, Oxford, 1800, 8vo—Emma, a Drama, 1804, 12mo—Odin, a Drama, 1804, 12mo—Poems, including the two Dramas just mentioned, 2 vols. 1804, 8vo—Monody on the Death of Lord Viscount Nelson, 1806, 4to—Miscellaneous Poems, 1813, 2 vols. 8vo—Christian Watching recommended; a Sermon on the Death of the Princess Charlotte, 1817, 8vo—The immoral Effects of the Poor Laws considered; a Sermon before the Friendly Societies of Bampton, 1818, 8vo.

“It was announced at a subsequent meeting of the Royal Society of Literature, that Dr. Richards had bequeathed the munificent sum of £5000 to its funds, the interest of which he directed to be applied to the publication of inedited MSS.”²⁷

THE CHURCH

at Halesworth, dedicated to St. Mary, comprises a nave, and chancel with aisles, and a north chapel, or chantry, appropriated to St. Anne, which was formerly well endowed.²⁸ The edifice is a plain, heavy fabric, the principal features of which are in the perpendicular style, though it was originally built during the decorated period of architecture. It probably owes its erection to the Argentein family, whose armorial bearings are remaining in the east window,²⁹ and in various parts of the building. Upon a buttress on the north side of the exterior are the figures of a man and woman, cut in stone, with the effigy of a child immediately beneath them. Below the male figure are the arms of Argentein, and under the female on a fess . . . 2 roses . . . or perhaps—for time has corroded the carving—a crescent and a rose. The pillars which sustain the roof are octangular, and plain, but the soffits of the short arcade in the chancel are filled with rosettes. The interior is disfigured, beyond all precedent, by ugly galleries. Projecting from the north side of the chancel is a convenient vestry, erected by Thomas and Margaret Clement; and it is very remarkable that an “orate” for their repose has not only escaped the zeal of Dowsing, but though simply *painted* on the stone lintel of the doorway, has resisted the more insidious attacks of time and damp. The piety of these founders is thus recorded:

Orate pro aīabus Thome Clement, et margarete cōsortis sue, qui istud bestiariū fieri fecerunt.

²⁷ In consequence of a judgment given by the Vice-Chancellor of England, in a cause arising out of Dr. Richards's will, it is probable that the value of this bequest to the Royal Society of Literature will be very considerably reduced.

²⁸ De Edwardo Mylls, et Roberto Randolph, oneratis cum firmâ tenementi et terræ ad £4. 12s. p. an. assignati capellæ Sctæ Annæ, infra eccliam de Halesworth, et aliis in com. Norf. et Suff. 9 Eliz. rot.

²⁹ Argentein; and Allington, sab. a bend engrailed between 6 billets arg., quartering Argentein.



Drawn by Miss Jane Worship.

F. Bedford Litho. London.

WEST DOORWAY. HALESWORTH CHURCH.

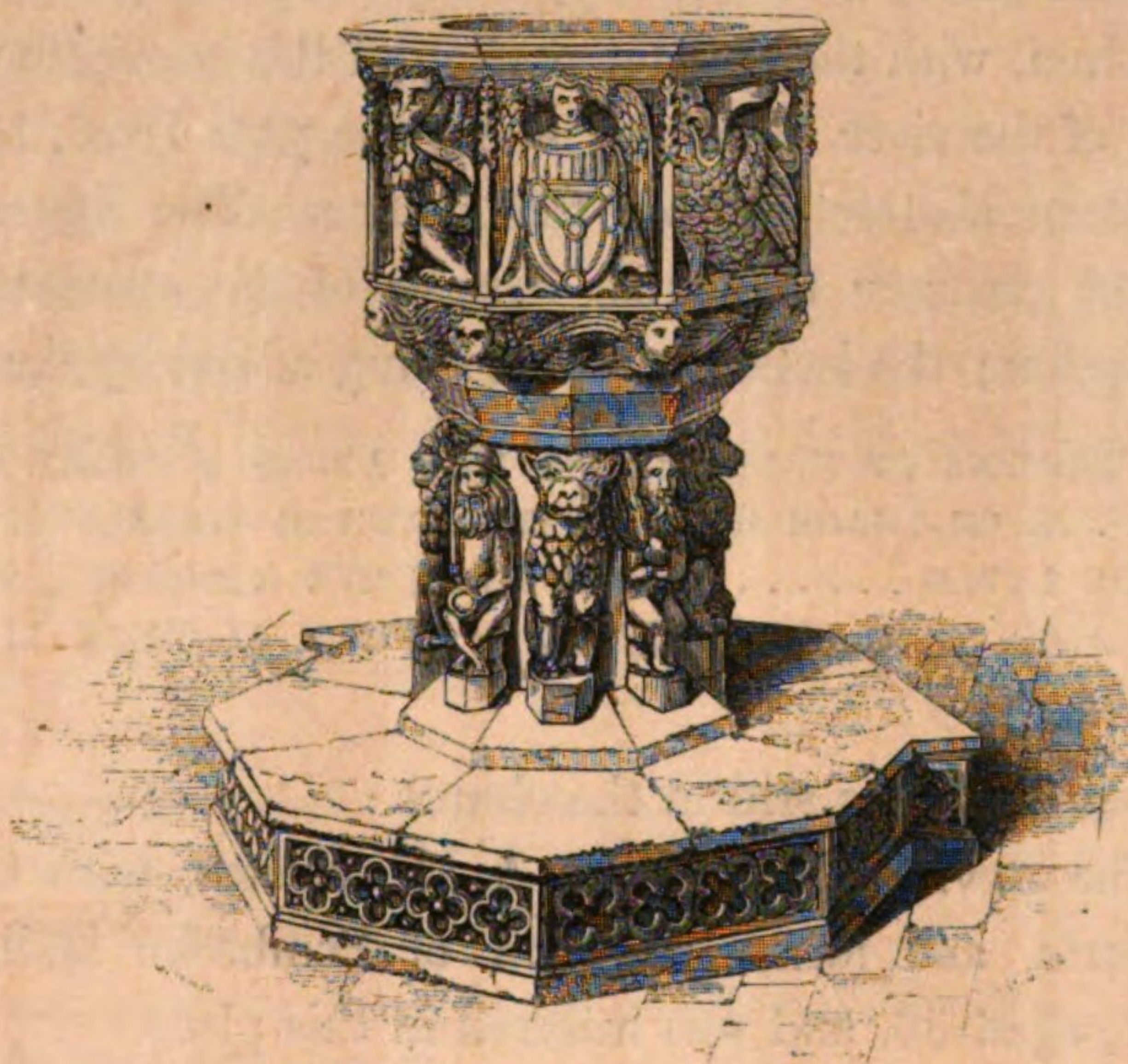
London. Published by the Author.

Printed by Sandilands & Co.

Before the Reformation, here were the guilds of St. Luke, St. John the Baptist, St. Giles, St. Anthony, and St. Loye. Dowsing thus mentions his operations here :

“Hallsworth, April the 5th.—2 crucifixes, 3 of the Holy Ghost, and a 3rd of the Trinity altogether ; and two hundred other superstitious pictures and more : 5 popish inscriptions of brass, *orate pro animabus*, and *cujus animæ propitiatur Deus* ; and the steps to be levelled by the parson of the town ; and to take off a cross on the chancel. And then the churchwardens had order to take down 2 crosses off the steeple.”

In the square tower at the west end of the nave are eight bells, bearing the dates of 1611, 1624, 1627, 1759, two with 1750, and two inscribed with dedications, respectively, to St. Thomas and St. John. Its west doorway is a fine and bold example of the square-headed portals of the fifteenth century.



The Font.

Margaret, relict of Sir John de Argentein, Knt., by her will, dated at Halesworth, A° 1385, directed her body to be buried in the church of St. Mary of Halesworth ; to the high altar of which she gave xx shillings.

William Fysk, of Halesworth, by his will, bearing date the 30th of January, 1512, desires to be buried within the holy sepulchre of the church of Halesworth ; to the high altar of which he bequeaths, in recompense of tithes neglected or forgotten, 6s. 8d. ; to the high altar of the mother church of Norwich, 6d. ; to the high altar of Rendham, 2s. ; to the high altar of Sotterley, 2s. ; to the high altar of Holton, 6d. ; to the guilds of St. John and St. Loye, in Halesworth, a coomb of malt ; to the reparation of the same church, 6s. 8d. ; to the abbess of Bruisyard, 20 pence ; and to each of the sisters, 4 pence ; and to each friar in the same place, 4 pence : to have a dirige sung for his

soul and his friends' souls: to have "a pryst of good and honest gydyngge to synge and pray for my sowle, the sowlis of my father and mother, my brethren, and for all other," for a year, as soon as such a man can be had, in the church of our Lady at Halesworth; and the same pryst to be paid from the money arising of his moveables.

Robert Albergh, of Halesworth, by will, dated 12th August, 1503, desires to be buried in Halesworth church, to the high altar of which he leaves 3*s.* 4*d.*; to the reparation of the same church, 40*s.* A secular priest to sing for his and his friends' souls in Halesworth church for one year. To the abbess of Bruisyard he gives 3*s.*; to the nuns of the same abbey, 7*s.*; to the guild of St. John the Baptist, 3*s.* 4*d.*; and to the guilds of St. Loye, and St. Anthony, 3*s.* 4*d.*

Like all our parish churches, that of Halesworth has been despoiled of its brasses. It is very remarkable, however, that a group, comprising the portraiture of a man, his wife, and sixteen children, with the greater portion of the inscription, should have been discovered in the bed of the river Waveney, about the year 1823, between Flixton and Bungay, which had been abstracted from this edifice. The figures were small, and habited in the costume common to similar designs of the seventeenth century. The following is the inscription; the letters in italics being added by the writer.

HERE LYETH JOHN BROWNE OF HALESWORTH, WHO LYVED A QUYET LYFE, AND DIED THE 26TH OF AUGUST OF THAGE OF 80 YEARES, AND 25 WEAKES HIS ONELY WYFFE, WITH WHOME HE LYVED YEARES AND FFIVE MONETHES, SIX SONNES AND TEN DAUGHTERS HE HADD, ALSO 65 GRANDCHILDREN, OF WHOM 54 WERE LIVINGE AT THE DAYE OF HIS DECEASE.

The following monuments are still in the church:

In the vestry—The Rev. William Cross, A. M., Rector, with Chediston annexed; Vicar of Amwell, Herts, and formerly Fellow of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, died 31st December, 1821, aged 56, and was interred in this place.

This gentleman graduated in 1791, and was the third wrangler of his year.

In the chancel, on a mural monument with the arms of Bedingfeld impaling Bedingfeld: P. S. Mortalitatis exuvias hic deposuit Henricus Bedingfeld, Eques Auratus, filius quartus Johannis Bedingfeld, de Halesworth, armigeri, e propinquo sepulti. Vir immortalī memoriæ sacratus, jurisprudentia, pietate, et consilio insignis, moribus integris, juxta ac suavissimis, Deo, principi, et amicis semper fidus, ita industriâ, ingenio, et judicio claruit, ut primum electus fuerit serviens ad Legē serenissimo principi Carolo Secūdo. Inde capitalis Justiciarius de Comūni Banco constitutus, cum singulari fide, animi moderatione et æquitate jus dixisset (sæpe Deū precatus ut bene agendo anima expiraret) post haustum sacræ Eucharistiæ calicē apoplexia correptus, pie in Christo obdormivit, Feb. 6, A. D. 1686-7, æt. suæ 54. Uxor charissā, filia Roberti Bedingfeld, S. T. P. cū qua conjunctissime vixit annos viginti, et

ex qua duas filias, adhuc superstites suscepisset, hoc supremum amoris et fidei conjugalis monumentū mæstissia, et cum lachrymis posuit. The two daughters who survived Sir Henry Bedingfeld were Henrietta and Anne, both of whom died unmarried. The latter must have been very young at the time of her father's decease, as she was not baptized till the 21st of May following that event.

Isaac Avarne, A.M., of Queen's College, Cambridge, thirty-four years resident Rector of this parish, with the vicarage of Chediston, died 17th July, 1820, aged 80.

Charles D'Urban, died April 3, 1769. Martha, late wife of James Jermyn, of this parish, and youngest daughter of John Mingay, of Surlingham, in Norfolk, Gent., married on Tuesday, 27th Oct. 1730, and died on Tuesday, 27th Oct. 1772, aged 64 years. James Jermyn, Attorney at Law, died 6th Jan. 1770, aged 70 years. James Reeve, Esq., died 10th Dec. 1826, aged 62. Frances Reeve, his wife, died 13th July, 1838, aged 68. Thomas Carver, Gent., eldest son of Dr. Thomas Carver, died Feb. 9th, 1719, aged 47. Elizabeth, his relict, died Oct. 7, 1713, aged 68. Thomas Carver, late of this parish, Doctor of Physic, who married Elizabeth, only daughter of John Vernon, of Maldon, in Essex, Gent., and who by the said Elizabeth, his only wife, had ten children, viz. five sons and five daughters, whereof two sons and three daughters survived him, died Oct. 3, 1708, aged 73 years. Arms: Carver—Sab. an unicorn erm. between 3 cross crosets arg.; impaling Vernon—Arg. fretty sab. on a canton of the last, a maunch or.

On a hatchment is the achievement of Keeble of six coats, viz.

1. Keeble—Barry nebulee of 6, arg. and sab. a canton gules.
2. lozengy, arg. and sab.
3. Arg. 2 chev. gules, within a bordure sable.
4. Arg. on a chev. engrailed sab. 3 escallops of the field.
5. Gules, 3 chevrons arg.
6. Gules, a griffin segreant arg.

On a panel affixed to the north-west angle of the interior of the chancel is a painting in oil, the upper part of which represents two trees. On the lower branches are suspended two escutcheons of arms, and a third rests upon the ends of the branches above them. A scroll falls from the boughs, on each side of the lower shields; that on the dexter side bearing an inscription very legible, "In Domino confido." On the opposite label the word Deo is alone perceptible. On the upper shield are the bearings of Ashton—1 and 4. Arg. a mullet sab.—2 and 3. quarterly.—1 and 4. Erm. on a fess gu. 3 annulets or.—2 and 3. Paly of 6 arg. and vert.; over all a label of 3 points sab. Crest: a mower with his scythe, his face and hands proper, his habit and cap counterchanged arg. and sab.: the handle of the scythe or, the blade arg. as in action.

On the dexter shield are the same arms, and on the sinister those of Brereton of 24 coats, viz.

1. Arg. 2 bars sab. Brereton.
2. Arg. an inescutcheon within a bordure flory, counter-flory gules.
3. Or, 3 piles in point gules.
4. Quarterly—1 and 4. Az. 3 garbs or.—2 and 3. Az. a wolf's head erased arg. lang. gu.
5. Gules, 3 pheons arg.
6. Az. 3 garbs or.
7. Az. a wolf's head arg. lang. gules.
8. Arg. a cross bottonee az.
9. Arg. a lion ramp. gu. within an orle of pheons sab.
10. Or, 2 ravens proper.
11. Erm. 5 chevronells gules, on a canton of the 2nd a lion pass. or.
12. Gules, 2 lions pass. in pale arg., a label of 3 points or.
13. Quarterly, arg. and gules, on a bend sab. 3 mullets arg.
14. Gules, 3 cross-crosets fitchee and a chief or; a crescent for difference.
15. Arg. on a bend engr. sab. an annulet or.
16. Arg. a griffin segreant gules.
17. Gules, a lion ramp. per pale erm. and erminois.
18.
19. Quarterly, arg. and gules, in 2. and 3. quarter a fret or. Spencer.
20. Arg. a chevron between 3 ostriches sab.
21. Arg. 2 chevronells gules, on a canton of the 2nd a mullet or.
22. Arg. an orle within an orle of martlets sab.
23. Az. a garb or.
24. Sab. a cross patonce argent.

Over all a crescent for difference.

Underneath is the following inscription in black letter on a gold ground.

Richard Assheton, borne the 26 July, 1622, sonne and heire to Raphe Assheton, of Kirkby, in the countie of Dork, sonne of Sir Richard Assheton, of Middleton, in the countie of Lancaster, Knt., and Catherin, wife to the said Raphe, daughter of William Brereton, of Ashby, in the countie of Chester, Esq., lately Fellowe Comoner in the pious and learned society of Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge, where his course of life was such that it gained the love of all, and deserbed the imitation of the best: rendered up his soule to the Almighty at the house of his worthy loving kinsman James Assheton, Bachelor of Divinity and Rector of this church, May 28, 1641, and his body to bee here interred under his tombstone in this chauncell, in hope of a joyful resurrection.

It is said in the Terrier, that "all the tithes within the said parish of Halesworth are paid to the rector or his tenant in their proper kinds, and there are no customs

in the said parish, but only 4 pence an acre for mowing-ground, 2 pence an acre for feeding-ground, 2 pence for any orchard, 2 pence for hearth-money, and 2 pence for the offering for every person above the age of 16 years."

Upon the back of the Terrier lodged in the Registry at Norwich, and dated Halesworth, 6th April, 1785, is this endorsement:

I have refused my signature to this Terrier, because the claims respecting the customs recorded in it appear to me not justifiable, nor is it supported by the ancient terriers now in the Registry at Norwich, nor has it at any time been attended to: the compositions in lieu of all tithes and dues having been made upon the principle of their being due to the Rector in kind.

THO^s. FORSTER, Rector of Halesworth.

The Rev. Isaac Avarne, Rector, in the beginning of the present century refused his signature to the Terrier drawn up at the Visitation of Henry, Lord Bishop of Norwich, on the 3rd of June, 1806, for the same reasons as influenced Mr. Forster.

RECTORS OF HALESWORTH.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Adam de Stanham . . .	1308	Dns John de Argentine.
Joēs de Ashton . . .	1334	Edm. de Berford, rac. cus. Joēs fil. et her. Joīs de Argentine.
William de Trollesbury . . .	1338	
Joēs Skencard ³⁰ . . .	1371	Dns Joēs D'Argentine.
William Bachelor . . .	1393	William Argentine, miles.
Joēs Bredford . . .	1400	Id.
William Hardy . . .	1408	Joēs de Heveningham, miles.
Edward Lohton . . .	1465	Joēs Alyngton, arm.
Henry Boleyn . . .	1471	Id.
James Hutton . . .	1479	Id.
Radulphus Hyde . . .	1490	William Chene, arm. et Eliz. ux.
William Woderowe . . .	1505	
Leonard Middleton . . .		
Richard Henrison . . .	1519	
Robert Woode . . .	1532	Egidius Alyngton, miles.
Robert Sturgis . . .		
Lucas Taylor . . .	1564	Id.
John Argall . . .	1580	Id.
Abdias Ashton . . .	1606	Id.
James Ashton . . .	1616	Id.
John Swayne . . .		
Samuel Jones . . .	1671	William Compton, miles.

³⁰ He is mentioned in the court-rolls of Peasenhall, anno 51 Ed. III., as "Johēs, psona de Halesworth."—MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Shortrudge	1690	Diana, Baroness of Wymondley.
John Beck	1722	Dorothea Betts.
Thomas Anguish	1723	Ead.
Isaac Collman	1736	Thomas Betts, Esq.
Thomas Forster	1746-7	W. Plumer, Esq.
Isaac Avarne	1786	Id.
William Cross	1820	Id.
Richard Whately	1822	Jane Plumer, widow.
Jos. Badeley	1831	Robert Plumer Ward, Esq.
Aug ^s . Fred. Phipps	1835	Id.
Jos. Charles Badeley	1839	Elizabeth Badeley.

Hæres Joannis Argentine est patronus illius. Rector habet mansum cum xxx acris tr̄ræ: estimatio illius xxx marc. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis vj^d., et pro paschæ termino vj^d. Den. S. Petri vij^d. ob.—Norwich Domesday.

The 30 acres of glebe are now reduced to 14 acres, 37 perches. The total extent of the parish is 1445 acres, 3 roods, 25 perches: of these, 35 acres, 2 roods, 35 $\frac{3}{4}$ perches, are not titheable. The total rent-charge, including £ 5. 17s. set upon the glebes, is £ 395. Population in 1841,—2662.

Charities.—The town estates consist of certain freehold and copyhold property, vested in trustees, in trust, that the rents and profits should be disposed of for the public uses and purposes, and general benefit of the inhabitants of this parish. Of the original acquisition of part of this property no account can be given; but other parts of it have been purchased at different times with money, or funds, belonging to the inhabitants. These are sometimes called the “unappropriated estates,” and are for the most part in the parish of Halesworth, but partly in the adjoining parish of Holton. This property produces a rental of above £ 200 per annum; part of which is subject to a charge of £ 3 per annum, in respect of Neale’s charity, hereafter to be mentioned; and the remainder of the clear income is applied to general purposes, viz. the repairs of the church, the payment of the salaries of the different officers belonging to the same, &c., the expenses of lighting the town, the support of some almshouses, and, occasionally, in the purchase of coals, to be retailed to the poor at reduced prices.

Six small almshouses, in a row, near the church, given by William Carey, and two cottages in Halesworth, occupied by fourteen poor widows, are kept in repair out of the rents of the above estate. The inmates are supported partly by means of other charities, which will be hereafter mentioned, and partly out of the poor-rates.

In 1611, Robert Lance gave by will £ 60 towards the purchase of a piece of land; the profits thereof to be distributed to the poor of the town of Halesworth,

where most need should require. With this legacy a piece of copyhold land, containing 5 acres, 3 roods, 9 perches, held of the manor of South Elmham, was purchased. The sum of £ 60, given by John Phillips, and £ 30. 5s., given by Richard Phillips, was laid out in the purchase of a messuage and lands, copyhold of the manor of Mells, in Wenham, consisting of a cottage, and 11 acres, 1 rood, 35 perches of land; the rental of which is laid out in the purchase of bread, and given to the poor: a portion, however, is reserved for the reparation of the grave-stone of the Phillips in Halesworth church-yard.

Matthew Walter, by will, dated 2nd July, 1589, left an annuity of 20 shillings to the poor of Halesworth, out of his estate at Holton, which is also laid out in bread, and given among poor people on Sundays.

In 1650, James Keeble devised a pightle, called "Bell's Pightle,"³¹ the rents to be applied yearly, at or before Christmas, to buy corn, to be made into bread, and distributed among the poor of the parish; and in 1652, John Keeble devised his lands in Holton to the relief of the poor of Halesworth; half of the revenue to be employed in the relief of widows, and the other half to bind out poor apprentices.

The sum of £ 80 was given by Reginald Burroughs for the purchase of land, for the benefit of twenty poor people dwelling in this town, that 20s. might be distributed among them quarterly.

Matthew Manne gave the sum of £ 20, the interest whereof he wills to be distributed in bread to the poor of Halesworth. The following is a copy of Mr. Manne's donation, extracted from the town chest:

To my loving good friends, the minister, churchwardens, and overseers for the poor of the towne of Hallisworth, in Suff., some six or eight miles beyond Framlingham.

S. salutem a fonte: I have sent here by this bearer twenty pds. of good and lawful money of England, to yourself, the churchwardens, and overseers of the towne of Hallisworthe, where I was born and baptized, the 26th of Feb. A.D. 1577. My desire is, that you would improve it to the best, as the custom is, for orphauntes and fatherless children—the profit I would receive myself during my life, but the stock I would have successively continued in the hands of the parson, churchwardens, and overseers of the above-named town of Hallesworth, by them to be improved to the best lawful advantage, and the profits thereof to be distributed in bread to the poor of the town of Hallisworth, upon each St. Matthias's day unto the world's end. The first distribution to be made on the first St. Matthias's day, next after my departure out of this natural life, and so to continue for ever. Thus I commit you all to the most high God, whoe present us blameless at his appearing thro' Jesus Christ.

Ipsw. this 22 Nov. A.D. 1615.

Y^r loveing freind, MATTHIAS MANNE.

³¹ On the 20th of October, 1651, at a court then held, Edmund Bedingfeld, Gent., son of John Bedingfeld, Esq., and others, were admitted as trustees to the close of land and pasture, known by the name of 'Bell's Pightle,' lying between the town land of Halesworth, for the use and benefit of the poor of Halesworth. John Cross was admitted to the same in 1653.—MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

Mr. Manne appears to have received two years' interest, at 20*s.* per annum, upon his donation of £ 20, and on the 20th February, 1634, he gave to Robert Knights and Jeffery Pryme, and the rest of the inhabitants of Halesworth, a general release. The above sum, with £ 10, given out of the town stock, was laid out, in the twenty-second of James I., in the purchase of a close, called "Quintrell's," in the hamlet of Mells, for the performance of the said charitable intentions.

In 1804, William Vincent bequeathed the residue of his personal estate to relieve the necessities of the poor of Halesworth, especially in sickness. This residue, amounting to £100, was laid out in the purchase of 2 acres, 2 roods, 18 perches of land in Holton.

The sum of £ 3 per annum is paid as interest upon £ 60 given by Thomas Neale, Esq., of Bramfield, for the education of poor children of this parish, and the further sum of 10*s.* yearly is paid for the purchase of bibles to be distributed gratis to the said children.

A rent-charge of £ 17. 6*s.* 8*d.* is settled upon a farm in Halesworth, now, or lately, the property of Mr. Charles Woolby; of which sum one-half is paid to a schoolmaster, and the other half to a schoolmistress, as directed by the will of Richard Porter, Esq., in 1701. John Hatcher gave by will, in 1816, a pew in the gallery of Halesworth church, the rent to be paid to the committee of the National School in Halesworth.

HENHAM.

HENHAM is now a hamlet of Wangford, as it probably always has been. If we derive Hen from a British word signifying old, the compound means the place of ancient residence. Whether our Saxon ancestors delighted in the beauties of this spot we have no evidence to show, though the following detail of its manorial history will prove it to have been a favourite residence of the wealthy and the noble for at least six hundred years.

At the time of the Norman Survey, Henham was the estate of Ralph Bainard. There was then a mill on this manor, and the live stock consisted of one draught horse, eight cows, fourteen swine only, though there was wood sufficient to maintain forty. There were forty sheep, four goats, and an apiary, valued altogether at forty shillings. Robert de Blideburc held it in exchange.¹ Ralph Bainard's estates having

¹ Domesday, 414 b, 415.

been forfeited to the Crown by his grandson, Henham seems to have been granted to two chieftains, each of whom constituted his share into a manor, known as that of Henham and Craven's; held of the barony of Bainard by knight's service.²

THE MANOR OF HENHAM.

The family of Kerdeston, who appear to have inherited a considerable portion of the Bainard estates on the ruin of that race, was enfeoffed of this lordship early in reign of Henry III. About the year 1250, the lands of Sir Fulk de Kerdeston, in Henham, are recognized in certain grants of his contemporaries to the Prior of Wangford;³ and in 1288, we find Walter de Kerdeston holding a knight's fee in the adjacent hamlet of Bulchamp. In the eleventh of Edward III., Roger de Kerdeston died, seized, *inter alia*, of this lordship, which he left to Maud his wife, who survived him, and held it for her dower with other estates. After her death it descended to Sir William Kerdeston, who died possessed of it, in the thirty-fourth or thirty-fifth of Edward III. He left it to his son William, who in the thirty-eighth of the same reign was returned as holding the manors of Henham and Bulchamp, of the Duke of Clarence, and the Lord Say.⁴ In the twentieth of Henry VI., Thomas de Kerdeston, Knt., released to William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, and Alice his wife, all his right in the manors of Bulchamp and Henham, &c.,⁵ in exchange, as it would appear, for their claims on the manor of Kerdeston, in Norfolk.⁶ This Alice, Countess of Suffolk, was daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet, by Maud his wife, grand-daughter of Sir William de Kerdeston. Sir Thomas de Kerdeston held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Henham, of John Fitz-Walter, and left a daughter, Elizabeth, married to Sir Terry Robsert, whose descendant claimed an interest in the manors of Henham and Bulchamp, holding them of the Honour of Clare, by the service of two parts of a knight's fee.⁷ In the Escheat Rolls of the twenty-ninth of Henry VI., the jury found that Sir Thomas de Kerdeston died, *not* seized of the manors of Henham, Bulchamp, and Stratford, in Suffolk, but that William de la Pole, late Duke of Suffolk, and Alice his wife, as her right, entered on, and

² Testa de Nevil. "Feod. milit. Robti. fil. Walti. de Baronia Baynard. Rogs fil. Osbi in Henham j. feod. in Suff. De feod. Walti. fil. Robti. Camilla de Wangford tenet un. feod. mil. in Henham de eod. Thom. de Cravene di. feod. milit. in Henham de eod.

³ From the register of Wangford Priory, in the possession of the Earl of Stradbroke.

⁴ Willius de Kerdeston ten. mnia de Henham et Bulecampe de Duce Clarenciâ, et dno de Say. Esch. 38 Ed. III.

⁵ Harl. MSS. 971.

⁶ Blomefield, art. Kerdeston.

⁷ Johes Robsert, mil. ten. de Honor. de Clare, mnia de Henham et Bulecampe, p. servic. jj. pat. feodi milit.—MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

took the profits, during the life of Sir Thomas, and that Alice, late wife of the said Duke, and Sir John Haward, were his next heirs. In the 3rd of Henry VI., a fine had been levied between Thomas Chaucer, Esq., and Maud his wife, querents, and Sir Thomas Kerdeston, and Elizabeth his wife, deforciant, of several lordships conveyed to Maud, who with her husband re-settled them on Sir Thomas and Elizabeth, in tail, to be held of the heirs of Maud. In the fifteenth of Edward IV., the Duchess of Suffolk died, seized of the manor of Henham, &c., and John de la Pole inherited the same. On the attainder of Edmund de la Pole, who was beheaded in 1513, this lordship escheated to the Crown, and was granted by Henry VIII. to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in exchange for the dissolved abbey at Leiston. At his death, in 1545, it again became Royal property, when Sir Arthur Hopton, of Blythborough, was appointed housekeeper at Henham Hall, then the King's demesne. Hopton, however, was enfeoffed of the manor, for in the same year he conveyed it to Sir Anthony Rous, Knt., of Dennington, in Suffolk, who, on the 28th of August, 1533, had been appointed Comptroller of Calais.⁸ The following is a transcript from the original deed of conveyance of the house, preserved amongst the evidences at Henham.

"To all mene to whom this p̄sent wrytyng shall come, Arthur Hopton, Knyght, sendeth gretyng in oʀ lord ever lastyng. Wher as oʀ souaīgn lord the kyng that now ys, by hys gracys l̄res patent, under the seale of hys cot̄ of thaugmentacions of the reuenewes of his crown, beryng date the xx^h daie of Aprill, in the xxxvjth yere of hys highnes reign, hath gevyn and graunted unto Willm Myllewerd and Rob^t Brygys, and to any of them jointly and sevrally, thoffice of Balywek, and also the kepyng of the manoʀ-place, orcherered and gerdyn, of his man̄ of Henh̄m, in the countie of Suff., to be excised and occupied by them, or by one of them, his or thur sufficient depute or deputs r̄ceyvyn and takyng yerely for thexecutyng and excysing of the same, an anuite or ffee of viij £. sterlyng, to be p̄d by ther owne hands, or by thand of the neybors and fearmers of the same manoʀ, as by the same l̄res patent more pleylny doth appere. Wych sayd office of Baylywek, and kepyng of the said hous, orcheyrd and gerdyn, with thanuitie and ffee aforesaid with the same l̄res patent the said S^r Arthure now hath of the assignment and gyft of the above namyd Wyllm Myllewerd and Rob^t Brygys. And also wich same manoʀ of Henh̄m hous or manoʀ-place, orcheyrd and gerdyn, S^r Anthony Rous, Knyght, nowe hath, and ys thereof lawfully seized in his demesne, or of ffee by the gyft and grant of oʀ said soveīgn lord, knowe ye me the same S^r Arthur, in consideration of lx £. strling to me by the same S^r Anthony before the seelyng hereof p̄d, of wich same some of threscore pounds

⁸ Carta orig. pen. the Earl of Stradbroke.

stlyng, I, the same S^r Arthure, do knowlege my selff to be well and trewly sottisfyed and pd, and thereof clerely do acquyte and discharge the same Sir Anthony, his heyres and executors, by thies p^{nts} hath gevyn, graunted, relesed and surrendred, and by thies p^{nts} do clerely geve, remit, reles and surrendre hup the said S^r Anthony, hys heyres, and assignes, the sayd office of Baylywek, and kepyng of the sayd house, orcheyerd and gerdyne, with the said anuytie or ffee of eight pounds, with all and singler ther appteninses, and all other p^{uffights} and emoluments what so ever they be pteynyng, belongyng, used and taken as p^{te} and p^{cell} to and of the same, together with the said l^{res} patents, and all other wrytyngs, estreats, and muniments defynyng the same. And ffurthermore the sayd S^r Arthure doth covennte and graunte for hym, hys heyres and executrs, to and w^t the said S^r Anthony, hys heyres and executrs, that the above-named Rob^t Brygys, yf he so longe lyve, shall before the feast of the purificoen of o^r lady next ensuyng after the date hereof, by hys deed or deeds sufficyent in the lawe, remyse and relese unto the sayd S^r Anthony, hys heyres and assignes, all such right, title and interest, as he, the said Rob^t, hath in the p^{mysse}s, and ffurther shall do from tyme to tyme, with in the space of an yere next after ensuyng the date hereof, all and every such acte and acts as shall be reesonebly devysed or advysed by the sayd S^r Anthony, hys heyres or assignes, hys or ther counsell lerned, for the more p^{flight} extyngwyshment of hys right, title, and interest in the same. At thonly costs and chargs of the said S^r Anthony, hys heyres, and assignes. In wytnes wherof I, the said S^r Arthure, hereunto have sett my seale. Yevyn the xxiiijth of Novembre, in the xxxvijth yere of the reyn of oure most dread soueign lord henry theight, by the grace of God kyng of Inglonde, ffrance, and Irelonde, defend^r of the fayth, and in yerth supreme hedd of the church of Ingland and also of Ireland.”⁹

The manor of Henham has ever since remained in the family of Rous, and is now the property of the Right Hon. John Edward Cornwallis, Earl of Stradbroke.

THE MANOR OF CRAVEN'S

is so called from a family formerly resident here.¹⁰ Sir Thomas Craven, Knt., had a mansion on his estate in Henham, in the reign of Henry III., which must have been a house of considerable pretensions, as he obtained from the prior and monks of Wangford permission to appoint a chaplain to perform Divine service therein.

“To all sons of holy mother church by whom this writing may be seen or heard, William, Prior of Wangford, and the Monks of the same place, with everlasting health

⁹ Ex cart. orig.

¹⁰ Thomas de Craven tenuit j. feod. in Henham, de Robto le Fitzwauter, &c.—Harl. MSS. 5193.

in the Lord. Know all men in Christ, that we, out of charity, and with our common consent and assent, have granted to Sir Thomas de Cravene, Knight, and his heirs, a chantry in his chapel, situate within his mansion of Henham. But in such manner, that every chaplain who shall serve the said chapel shall take his corporal oath to us and our successors, that he will save harmless our church of Wangford in all things, as well in oblations as in other revenues, which to our church of Wangford belong or ought to belong. And if it shall so happen (may it never occur) that the chaplain who shall serve the said chapel, or any other person by reason of the said chapel, shall have maliciously defrauded or injured our church of Wangford, and the same, either by his negligence or want of skill, shall have been maliciously injured or defrauded, In such case it shall be lawful for us, and the said Sir Thomas grants for himself and his heirs, that it shall be lawful for us and our successors, the before-mentioned chapel to suspend and interdict, without legal remedy, appeal, cavil, or contradiction, of the said Sir Thomas and his heirs, who in all things, in which our said church of Wangford may be defrauded or injured, will make full satisfaction to us and our successors. And the said Sir Thomas grants and gives, in frank-almoign for ever, to God and Saint Mary, and the church of Saint Peter of Wangforde, and the monks there, serving God, two pieces of his land at Henham, of which one piece lies near the wood of Sir Fulko de Kerdeston, between lands of the said Fulko on each side, and abuts upon land of Philip of Wangford towards the south, and upon the highway at Wangford, which leads towards the north; and the other piece lies between land of the said Fulko, and land of the prior of Wangford, and abuts upon land of the said prior towards the south, and upon the highway before mentioned towards the north. To have and to hold to the aforesaid prior and monks, and their successors, freely, quietly, peaceably, and honourably, for ever. And the said Sir Thomas and his heirs will warrant, acquit, and defend the said pieces of land to the said monks and their successors, against all persons, as well Christians as Jews. In witness whereof, I, the said prior of Wangford, and the monks of the same place, and the said Sir Thomas, to this writing, made in the manner of a chirograph, by unanimous consent, and free will, have put our seals. And for greater security and fidelity between us and our successors, and the said Thomas and his heirs, to hold for ever, we have procured the seal of the prior and convent of the monks of Thefford to be set to this present writing, made in the manner of a chirograph, of which one part remains with us, and the other with the said Sir Thomas and his heirs. Farewell in the Lord."

The preceding grant bears no date, but its age is proved by the reference it makes to the lands of Sir Fulk de Kerdeston, who lived in the reign of Henry III.; for in 1258, John de Eschalers and Alice his wife conveyed by fine to Fulk de Kerdeston, a carucate

of land in Kerdeston and Reepham.¹¹ Sir Thomas Craven's gift to the monks of Wangford is thus recorded in their register book.

"Dñs Thos Cravene, miles, dedit et concessit Willo por̄ de Wangford in pura et ppetua elemosina duas pec. tr̄e sue in henhm. Quar. j. pec. jact̄ ppe bosco dñi Ffulconio de Kerdeston, int. tras dci Fulconi ex ut^aque pte, et abutt spr̄ tr̄. Philippi de Wangf. vrs austr. et spr̄. via q^e duc^t. ap^d Wangf. usq. aqⁱlon. et alia pec. jacet int̄ tr̄. dic. fulconi et tr̄e por̄ de W. et abutt spr̄. tr̄. dct̄. por̄i vrs austr. et spr̄. via priorat. vrs. aqⁱlon. hend. et tenend.," &c.

In the early part of the succeeding century, the manor of Craven's in Henham was held by the family of Micklefield, who resided at Blythford. William Micklefield, of that place, by deed dated at Henham, on the day next after the feast of St. John Baptist, in the eighth of Henry VI., grants to William Phelyp, Knt., John Heveningham, junior, Knt., William Gernham, clk., Richard Daniell, clk., William Brasier, clk., Robert Banyard de Spectishall, and William Hoo, de Wyssete, his manor called Cravene's in Henham, with its tenement, woods, pastures, rents, &c., and other its appurtenances thereto belonging, in the towns of Henham, Blythborough, Bulchamp, Sotherton, Donewych, Wangfield, Reydon, Brampton, Westhall, and Blyford, to have and to hold, &c. Witnesses, Thomas Kerdeston, Knt., John Shardelow, Esq., and others.¹² This William Micklefield held in Henham half a knight's fee of John Fitz-Walter, which Richard de Cravenne lately held, and by his will, dated at Henham, in 1439, and proved on the last day of June, 1441, devised the manor of Craven's to John Ulverstone, his wife's son, under the following conditions:

"First, I will and preye that my wif shal have, bi terme of her lif, al my maner callid Cravenes in Henham, with all the membris and p̄tin thereto longyng in Henham, Wangford, Bregge, and alle wher, wheche late wer Thomas Cravene, except all that ten^t callid Middelton's, with certen londs lyng therebi, wheche I have assigned and bondid therto, to the value of x marc. yerli: and also x acr. of Ressefen and Redfen, at Bregge, with fre entr. chas. and rechas ther to and fro. whiche tenem̄t and londs, my perpos and will were to annexe to my maner of Mekelfeld of my inheritaunce, &c. And the reversione of the same maner of Cravenes I will that John Ulverstone shall have it after the decesse of my seid wif, his moder, with all the p̄tin, if he lyke hym to have it, fyndyng sufficiaunt suretees to my feoffees and extors such as thei can gree for, to paye hem therfore vj^e marcs of lawful money of Ingelond, within 3 yeres."

Ulverston's disposition of the manor of Craven's is not apparent, but the lordship seems to have been united with that of Henham at no very distant period; for by an

¹¹ Blomefield.

¹² Ex cart. orig. Brit. Mus.

inquisition taken at Hoxne, 20th May, fifteenth of Elizabeth, after the death of Thomas Rous, Esq., he was found to die on the 20th of February, in the fourteenth of the same reign, seized of the *manor* of Henham *cum* Craven's, and Southerton, alias Sotterton, &c., held of the Crown, in capite, by the twentieth part of a knight's fee, and 47 shillings and 7 pence rent—valued at £ 60.¹³ Thus united with the lordship of Henham, the manor of Craven's has passed to its present possessor, the Earl of Stradbroke.

The old quadrangular Hall at Henham, the witness of many a feast and revelry in Tudor days, was burnt to the ground on Saturday, May the 8th, 1773; and as the mansion and furniture were uninsured, the loss sustained on the occasion was estimated at £ 30,000. Tales were current after the event, which, without foundation, ascribed the destruction of the house to the malignity of the papists; but the awful occurrence is more clearly shown to have arisen from the carelessness of a drunken butler, who, while robbing the cellar during his master's absence in Italy, set fire to the saw-dust in one of the wine-bins. This unfaithful domestic, on viewing the disastrous scene produced by his own worthlessness, immediately fled into Devonshire, where he assumed another name, and was never heard of afterwards. There is in the possession of the Earl of Stradbroke a small water-coloured drawing of the principal front of the mansion, made shortly after the fire. The exterior walls, from their great strength, resisted the power of the flames, but the windows, roof, and inner shell, appear to have been entirely consumed. Little, comparatively speaking, of the furniture and enrichments of the house escaped destruction. A few portraits were rescued, and a fine old wassail bowl of wood, round the circular lip of which is this appropriate legend:

✠ *Reddit securum potantem has bene purum,
Hinc, precor, haurite tanquam laeti sine lite;*

which has been thus freely translated by the late Lord Stradbroke:

My bowl is so clean,
The liquor so pure,
The nicest may taste,
Of health most secure.

Drink deep, then, I pray,
Rememb'ring this law,—
Ye joyful may be,
But none of your jaw.

It is very possible that Charles Brandon, with his charming wife, the Queen of France, and even "bluff King Hal" himself, may have drank out of this antique bowl.

¹³ Cole's Esch. v. ii. p. 137.



F. Bedford. Litho. London.

THE OLD HALL, HENHAM.

DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1773.

London, Published by the Author.

Printed by Sawbridge & Co.

Drawn by M^{rs} E. B. 22.



F Bedford, litho from an old Drawing in the possession of the Earl of Stradbroke.

INTERIOR OF THE GREAT COURT,
HENHAM OLD HALL.

London. Published by the Author.

Printed by Sandridge & Co

Like all our ancient mansions, the old Hall of Henham was built of red brick with stone dressings, quoins, and window-frames. A second illustration, showing the interior of its principal court, is added from a drawing preserved in the new house. On its back is written the following notice of the place itself, and of the occurrence which caused its ruin :

“This large, noble, and magnificent mansion, which had been the seat and residence of the De la Poles, Earls of Suffolk, and of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who, it is supposed, built the front, had from the last year of King Henry the 8th, been the seat and residence of the antient family of Rous, being granted by that King to Sir Arthur Hopton, Knt., who in the same reign sold it to Sir Anthony Rous, Knt., till on the 8th of May, 1773, a fire was discovered in the west front about four o'clock in the morning, and which, raging with great violence, before night had consumed and laid waste the whole, consisting, at that time, of about forty-five rooms, besides garrets, the principal of which had lately been elegantly fitted up, and furnished by the late Sir John Rous, Bart., who died Oct. 30, 1771, leaving an only son, the present John Rous, who, when the fire happened, was at Venice.”

The following is an inventory of the furniture and effects of this mansion, taken in the year 1602; which also embraces an appraisement of the household goods of Sir Thomas Rous in his residences at Dennington and Norwich, at the same period. It is a curious document, and serves to introduce us into the houses of a wealthy country gentleman of the seventeenth century.

The Inventorie Indented of all the goods and chattles, rightes and credittes w^{ch} were Sr Thomas Rous, Knight, att the tyme of hys death, made, taken, and apprised, the flirst daye of August, in the flirst yere of the raigne of King James, by Thomas Platers, William Grymston, and Ffrauncis Brewster, Esquiers, and John Mendham, John Stanton, Henrie Edger, Gent., Henry Crowfoote, Anthony Mosse, Thomas Mosse, William Baker, and Lawrence Deve, Yeomen.

In the hall.

Itm. Two planke tables, and fowre fformes, one hawk perk xijs.

In the parlor.

Itm. Three joyned beadsteads, one livery table, one ffeatherbead wth a boulster, one ould covlett, and three ould matts xls.

In the pantry.

Itm. One joyned cubberd, one joyned chest, one ould chest bound wth iron, one chopping bing, one keeler xxs.

Itm. Three basons, and two ewers of pewter, ten washing basons, two pewter voyders, ffowre pewter salts, one candlestick of brasse, ffoweteene pewter candlesticks, and two great juggs xxs.

In both y^e cellors.

Itm. Ffyve beerestalles, twelve hogsheads xxs.

In the great dyneing cha.

Itm. One longe joyned table	xxxs.
Itm. One square table, one lyvery table	xls.
Itm. Eyght joyned stoles, covered w th velvett and imbroydered, ffowre joyned chayres, suteable to the stooles	vli.
Itm. Two chayres coved, one litle ould chayre coved w th greene vellvett	xxvs.
Itm. Three carpetts to the said tables	vjli.
Itm. Seaven longe wyndow quioshions, longe	xlvs. viij <i>d</i> .
Itm. Two wyndow clothes of tapstry worke, eyght hangings of aryes	xl <i>li</i> .
Itm. One payre of brasse cobirons, one p ^e of iron cobirons, one firepan, one fire forke, three hanging candlesticks	lvjs.
Itm. Three tables with coate armor	xs.

In the gallery.

Itm. Two pictures, nyne and twenty mappes	xxxs.
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In y^e litle new chamber.

Itm. One ffyeld beadsteed, w th a testor, and hangings, w th vallens, one fetherbed, one boulder, two pillowes, one covlett, one blankett, one matte	vli.
Itm. One lyvery table w th an ould carpett, one olde stoole, one joyned chayre, seated w th leathor	xs.
Itm. Payre of andirons, one fyre panne, one payre of tongues, one payre of bellowes	ijs.
Itm. Fowre ould hangings of tapstry worke	xls.

In the next chamber.

Itm. One ould beadstead, two close stooles	iiij <i>s</i> .
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In the best chamber.

Itm. One posted beadstead w th y ^e testor and vallens and curtens of silke, one feather bed w th a boulder, two pillowes, two blanketts, one twilted covlett of silke, one matte, one lyvery table with a carpett of nedle work, one window cushion, one window curtaine, one covered chayre, two joyned stooles, covered with vellvett, one payre of cobirons, one fire panne, one payre of tongs, six peere of lether hangings	xx <i>li</i> .
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In the next chamber.

Itm. Two ou ^r . beadsteades, one featherbed and one boulder, one ould covlett of tapstry work, two matts	xxvjs. viij <i>d</i> .
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In the corner chamber.

Itm. One lyvery beadstead	vs.
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In the cha. next adioyning.

Itm. One ffyeld beadstead w th a testor, vallons, and hangings, one featherbead, one boulder, two pillowes, one blankett, one yellow rugge, one lyvery table w th a carpett, one ould wyndow cushion, one matte, one ould chayre, seated w th vellvett, two old stooles, one payre of andirons, one fyre pannè, one pre off tongues, one window curten	vii <i>li</i> .
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In the next chamber.

Itm. One ould beadsteade, one featherbead, one boulder, one blankett, one ould covlett of tapstry worke, one ould hanginge of the same, one matte	xxxvs.
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In the litle dyneinge cha.

- Itm. One joyned table, one greene carpett, one lyvery table wth a carpett, twelve joyned stooles, seated with leather, ffoure joyned chayres, seated wth the same xls.
- Itm. One pre of playing tables, one litle joyned stoole, one payer of andirons, six cushions of needle worke, ffoure carpett cushens xls.

In Loveis' chamber.

- Itm. One ould livery beadstead wth a tester, one matte, one chayre, seated wth leather, one ould stoole wth three feete, one ould payre of andirons xs.

In the gatehouse chamb^r.

- Itm. Two old beadsteads, one fetherbed, one boulster, one covlett, one matte xvs.

In the closett next ye garden.

- Itm. One cownter table, one joyned drawer seated wth needle worke, one lyttle joyned stoole, one coofer barde wth iron, one standishe, certeyne bookes xls.

In the cha^r. over ye backhouse.

- Itm. Twoo lyvery bedsteades wth one cannopy, three featherbedes, three boulsters, two matts, fower pillowes, two blankets, one whyte rugg covlett, one redd rugg covlett vijs.
- Itm. One lyvery cobbard wth one olde carpett, two chayres seated wth leather, two old stooles, one longe cofer of halfe ynych borde, one lyttle guilt boxe, one payre of andirons, one fyer panne, one payre of tongs, one payre of bellowes, certeyne old hangings xxxiij^s. iiij^d.
- Itm. One trunck, and therein one carkanett, one border, wth other jewells, and smale thinges xs.

In the new nurcery.

- Itm. One lyvery cubberd, two old lyvery bedsteads, two featherbeds, two matts, two boulsters, two blancketts, one coverlett, one rugge coverlett iiij^{li}.
- Itm. Two great trunckes, two danste cofers, one old chayre, two andirons, one payre of tongs, one fyer panne, one payre of bellowes xxxs.

In the cham^r. wthin the nurcery.

- Itm. One old great trunck, one old chest bounde wth iron, two danste chests, one window cushion, one grene carpett, one old lyvery table xxxiij^s. iiij^d.
- Itm. One bason, and ewer of sylver, one flaggyn pott of sylver, one guilt salt, one great sylver salt, two little sylver salts with covers, two sylver bowles, pcell guilt, fflower sylver bowles, one suger boxe of sylver wth a little sylver spones, twelve sylver spones £lix. xvjs.
- Itm. One damaske table clothe, and one cubbard cloth, one damaske towell, one dusen of table napkyns, two diaper table clothes, two diaper cubbord clothes, one dyaper towell, one dusen of diaper table napkyns £v. viijs. iiij^d.
- Itm. Nyne fyne table clothes, one fyne square table clothe, fflower course table clothes, tenne cubbord clothes, and two couse ones, eight fyne towells, eight coarse ones £iiij^s. xs.
- Itm. Ffyve payre of three bredth sheets, sixe payre of fyne pillowberes, thirtene payre of course shetes, thirtene payre of other shetes, ffyve dozen and seaven table napkins £ix. xvs.
- Itm. Two testers for bedes wth the valanse xvs.

In the closett ov. ye backhouse.

- Itm. One little square table, one old stoole, one old deske, and certayne bookes xxs.

In the back ketchen.

- Itm. One planck table, one chopping brd, one towle, one old jack, and certayne other implements xs.

In the larder.

Itm. Two old fyrkynes, one payre of musterd quernes, two vineger bottles ijs.

In the kitchen.

Itm. Three brass potts, one old little pott, fyve brasse kettles, thre skilletts, thre old dripping pannes, one pestell, wth a mortar xlvjs. viij*d*.

Itm. Two rostirons, tenne spitts, one payre of racks, fflower cobirons, one plate of iron to lye before the panne, two payre of ptt hooches, two frying pannes, one tray, thre choppyng knyves, two clyvers, one myncinge knyfe, two stemors, three brasse ladles, two old tubbs, one fyer sholve, one fyre forke, one grate, two chopping bordes, and certayne other implements ls.

In the pastry.

Itm. Two plancke tables, wth tressells, one plancke stole, one salting trouf, one bowle, one tubbe vs.

Itm. Fflower and twentie pewter platters, aleaven pewter disshes, ffytene sallett dishes, ffiftene other dishes of a greater sorte, thirtene sorsers, fower porringers, aleaven pewter platters, one cullynder, ffyve pewter chardgers, one old basone, two pewter potts for close stoles, fower chamber potts, one old brasse panne (waighing 172 ^b, at 5^d half^d. y^e ^b) £iij. ijs. v*d*.

In ye backhouse.

Itm. Two planck tables, fflower tressels, one boultynghutch, one myngeynge troughe, one syftyng bynge, fflower tubbs, one keler, one seeve, one trevet, two bowlters, one peelee, one colerake, one perke, and certayne other implements xx*s*.

Itm. Tenne sacks vjs. viij*d*.

In the chappell.

Itm. Tenne combes of wheate £v.

Itm. Eight combes of wheat drosse xxxijs.

Itm. Twelve combes of rye iij*s*. vij*d*.

Itm. Fower combes of barly drosse viijs.

Itm. One payre of sceales, and a beame, two leadon wayghts, wth ringes, two old fannes, one bushell, one halfe bushell, one corne scoopet, one old frame of a table, and thre peces of tymber x*s*.

In the dayrye

Itm. One cheese-presse, two cheese planckes, the tressells viijs. iij*d*.

Itm. Two chernes, ffiftene milkebowles, seaven keelers, fower payles xxx*s*.

Itm. One cheese tubbe, one stande tubbe, nyne old cheese fatts, ffyve brewds xx*s*.

Itm. Two brasse kettles, one caldron, fflower cheese clothes, one clensing cloth, one payre of mylke tongs, one brasen dish xx*s*.

Itm. Two old stooles, one old little table, one fyer panne, one payre of tongs, two hakes, one brewed vs.

Itm. Twentie cheses, one little table, one ferken of butter xlijs. viij*d*.

Itm. One borded bedstead, two old featherbeds, two bowlsters, two blanketts, and two coverletts xl*s*.

In ye malthouse and ye chamber.

Itm. One saltyng troughe, one kell hayre, one fether bed, one bowlster, one strawbed, one coverlett, two blancketts, one screene for corne £iij.

Itm. Six combes of wheate £iij.

Itm. Fower combes of old pease xxiijs.

In ye brewinge house.

Itm. One meesheyng ffatte, one wourte tubbe, one guyle fatte, one cooler £iij. vjs. viij*d*.

Itm. Seaven hoggsheads, fower keelers, one jett, one hoppebaskett, certayne old hoppes, two bere stoles, one old panne, one old brewed, one fyer forke, two tubbes xxx*s*.

In ye ould nurcery.

Itm. One greate cheast bound w th iron, one greate trunck chest bound w th plates, one sweatyng tubbe,	
one steele saddle	xls.
Itm. One velvett saddle layde w th gold lace, w th the furniture	xs.
Itm. Thre horsemens coates and two trunckes	xls.
Itm. His apparell	£ xl.
Itm. Two stylls	xs.

In ye armory chamber.

Itm. Two bedsteads, tenne chayres, fower joyned stooles, two little frames for tables . . .	£ viij.
Itm. All his armorie	£ x.

In ye pantry chamber.

Itm. One bedstead, w th a testor, vallance, and hangyngs, one featherbed and boulster, two pillowes, two	
blancketts, one yellow rugge coverlett, one matt	£ v.
Itm. Two old chayers, one stoole, one old lyvery table, w th a carpett, and certayne old hangeyngs, one	
payre of andirons, one pare of tongs, one payre of bellows	xxvjs. viijd.

In ye scoole chamber.

Itm. One bedstead, one featherbed, one boulster, one blanckett, one old coverlett, one little table w th	
drawers, one old lyvery table, one payre of cobbirons	xls.

In ye ould parlor.

Itm. Two borded bedsteads, one old featherbed, one boulster, one flockbed, one bowlster, fower old	
coverletts	xxxs.

In Arty's chamber.

Itm. One bedstead, one matt, one old table	iiij s.
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In Gyrlyng's chamber.

Itm. One old borded bedstead, one featherbed, one bowlster, one matt, one coverlett, one	
blanckett	xxvjs. viijd.

In Powsyn's chamber.

Itm. One old borded bedstead, one fether bed, one bowlster, one coverlett, one blankett . . .	xxiiij s.
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In ye butler's chamber.

Itm. One old bedstead, one featherbed and boulster, one matt, one coverlett, and two blancketts	xljs.
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In ye little halle.

Itm. Two table plancks, two formes, and one cobiron	vs.
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In Heylocke's chamber.

Itm. One old borded bedstead, one featherbed, one bowlster, one coverlett, one blanckett, one drume and	
the sticks, one old table	ls.

In Grayes chamber.

Itm. One bedstead, one featherbed, one boulster, two coverletts	xxxs.
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In a nother roome.

Itm. One base violeine, one treble violeine, one orpharian	ls.
Itm. One coatche, w th the furniture	£ x.

In ye baylif's cham.

Itm. One bedstead, one featherbed, one bowlster, one coverlett, one blanckett	xxiijs. iiijd.
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In ye porter's lodge.

Itm. Two old borded beadsteads, two flockbeds, two coverletts, one blancket, one haggssawe, one iron grate for coals	xxxs.
Itm. One cast of ffawkens	£iij.
Wood, blockes, broome, and chippes	xls.
Planckes, and other tymber new sawen	xxxs.
Haye in	xxxs.

In ye lower gallery.

Itm. Certayne peeces of tymber and feather edged bord, and ctayne small paments, and thre long barly rakes of wood	xxs.
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In ye storehouse.

Itm. Certayne feather edged bords, twenty bouls, one bunche of lathe, ctayne halfe inche bord, fower joyned bedposts, certayne old peeces of tymber	£iij.
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In ye gardin and bouleing ground.

Itm. Ffyve seats	xijs.
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The p^ulterye.

Itm. Ffiftie hennes, cocks, and chickens	xijs. vjd.
Itm. Thre capens	ijs.
Itm. Twentie five ducks	vjs.
Itm. Twenty geese	xs.
Itm. Ten hoggs, sowes, and bores, and six shotts	£vij.
Itm. Twelve milche cattell, and one bull	£xxx.
Itm. Seavne steeres	£xvij.
Itm. Seaven milche heffers	£xvj. vjs. viijd.
Itm. Twentie and one ewes, seaven rames, one weather, and nyne lambes	£x.
Itm. Tenne cart horses and meares, eighteen horses, meares, and coults, thre horses more	£lxxxx. vjs.
Itm. Ffortie acres of barly	£l.
Itm. Thirtene acres of wheate	£xvij.
Itm. Thre acres of oates	xxxs.
Itm. The bricke and tile	£c.

In ye carthorstable.

Itm. Thirtene horserollers, tenn dudfins, two halters, two cartroppes, eight payre of ploughe trayse, eight payre of cart trayse, one old tubb	xxxiijs. iiijd.
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In ye carthouse.

Itm. Two carts	£iiij. xij. iiijd.
Itm. Two tumbrels, two ploughes, two payre of ploughe wheles, fower plough coulter, fower plough sheares, thre harrowes, a old cart booke	£iij.
Itm. Thre hoggs troues, and one boars stye	xs.

In ye geldingsstable.

Itm. One velvet sadle w th the furniture, one greataffe sadle, thre lyvery sadles, one old sadle	ls.
Itm. On pillin w th the furniture, one sumpter sadle, thre old sadles	xxvjs. viijd.
Itm. Five leather bridles, one mule pillin, two horseclothes, one borded bedstead, two old hogsheds, one bridle bitt w th bosses, one other great bytt w th a hedstall and reane	xxs.

- Itm. One joynd bench, fower reanes, two sussingls, one old pitchforke, one stable sholve, two payls, and one packsadle iijs. iiijd.
 Itm. Things of small value, and trifles forgotten vs.

DYNINGTON.

In ye hall.

- Itm. Two planck tables wth two formes, one old joynd chest, one candle platte xxss.

In y^e perlor.

- Itm. One cubbard table, one table wth a frame, one forme xss.

In y^e inward perlor.

- Itm. One lyvery table and one forme iijs. iiijd.

In ye low nursery.

- Itm. One chest bound wth iron, one old cubard table vjs. viijd.

In y^e great chamber.

- Itm. Lyvery table, one old square table, wth a frame ijs. vjd.

In y^e seeled cham.

- Itm. One lyvery table ijs.

In ye chamber over ye pantry.

- Itm. One little lyvery table, one old forme, one bedsteade vjs. viijd.

In ye chamber over ye entrye.

- Itm. One great chest, one little cobard, one table wthout a frame js.

In ye closet.

- Itm. One old lyvery table vjd.

In ye pamant yard cham.

- Itm. One bedstead and one old forme iijs.

In ye dayry.

- Itm. One duple cheespresse, one payre of cobirons, two old great salting trouffs, thre beere stalles, one old forme, one tubb, one stoole xxss.

In ye pantry.

- Itm. One bread binge vjd.

In ye mylkhouse.

- Itm. One old horsemyll for malt xss.

In ye rounde chamber.

- Itm. One posted bedstead wth a cord, one featherbed, two bouldsters, one coverlett, one payre of blancketts, one lyvery cubberde liijs. iiijd.

In ye lower chamber.

- Itm. One bedstead wth a cord, one featherbed, one boulder, one coverlett, and one blanckett xls.

In y^e ladyes cham.

- Itm. One bedstead wth a cord and a matt, one featherbed, wth a boulder, one payre of blancketts, two pillowes, one old crimson twilt, one canapie of grene saye, wth the hangins, one lyvery cubberd, one old imbroydred chayre £iiij.

In y^e nurcerye.

- Itm. One posted bedstead, wth a cord and a matt, two featherbeds, two bouldsters, two coverletts, two payre of blancketts, one great box £v. viijs. iiijd.

In y^e mattye chamber.

Itm. One bedstead wth a cord, one matt, one featherbede, one boulder, one coverlett, one blanket, one pillowe, one lyvery cubberd lijs. iiijd.

In y^e cha: wthin y^e mattye cha.

Itm. One featherbed wth a boulder, one covlett, one blanket xxxs.

In y^e dynyng cham.

Itm. One longe drawing table, wth a lyvery cubberd £iij.

One square lyvery table, two ioyned formes, six buffet stooles, two chayres, two cobirons xxss.

In y^e cha. next beyonde ye rounde chamber.

Itm. Two featherbeds wth two boulders, two coverletts, and thre blankets £iij.

In ye palor.

Itm. One posted bed-stead xs.

In ye hall.

Itm. One long table, one long forme, one lyvery cubberd, one short table, one lanthorne vjs. viijd.

In ye buttry.

Itm. One frame wth bords lying uppon yt, one bread bing vjs. viijd.

In ye sellers.

Itm. Seaven hoggsheads xs. vjd.

Fower beere stooles iiijss.

In ye kitchen.

Itm. Two great rackes, one iron to sett before the drippin pannes, two haies wth one great iron barr, one morter, one great brasse panne, and one great bason of brasse ls.

In ye brewing house.

Itm. Thre great brewing fatts, a cooler, a wort troughe xxxs.

In ye dayrye house.

Itm. One salting traye vs.

In ye mylhouse.

Itm. One old horse myll xxxs.

Itm. In inche bords, and inche and dd plancke at the pitte in the lands xls.

Itm. The inche bords in the gallerie xxxs.

Itm. One newe frame for a ffysh house £vj. xiijs. iiijd.

Itm. Two combs and two busshells of wheat xxiiijss.

Itm. Ctayne inche and dd inche bord att Robte Wright's xls.

Itm. Ctayne inche bords and plancks at ferme halle xxxs.

Itm. The inche borde at the place xxxs.

Itm. The plancke there vjs. viijd.

NORWICH.

In ye boyes cham.

Itm. One bedstead and one matt ijs. vjd.

In Grayes cham.

Itm. One bedstead, one matt, and a stoole of a bord's ende iiijss.

In ye butler's cham.

Itm. One bedstead, a lyne, and a matt ijs. vjd.

Itm. One bedstead, a lyne and a matt, one stoole of a bord's end, one lanthorne . . . xij*d*.

Itm. Two pitchforkes, two scoopetts, one skepp, one ladder, two tubbs for oates vjd.

Itm. One fyerforke, one rost iron, one peeple, one coole-rake, one fyer-panne for sea-coole, thre dressing
bords, one chopping bord, one earthing mustard pott, one dresser bord, one brasse pott, one
payle xls.

Itm. Two bords, fower shelves, fower keelers, two great tubbs, ffyve old butter ferkens, one great traye,
two gally potts vjs.

Itm. One lowbell nett, one halfe bushell, one scuppit, one bortedbedstead, one matt, one scorringe
bord, one bulting tubb, one other tubb xvijls.

Itm. One payre of cobirons, a fier panne, one livery table xiiij.

Itm. Two ioyned stooles

Itm. Two bedsteads wth lynes, one matt, one featherbed, one boulder, one cov^{er}lett, one blanket, one great chayre, two little chayres, one cushen, one fyer panne, one payre of cobirons, one payre of tongs, one livery table xxxvs.

Itm. One long ioyned table, one square table, one lyvery table, one great chayer, six little chayres, six covred stooles, nyne grene stooles, one little ioyned stoole, one screne, fower windowe curtyns, two mappes, two carppets, six cushens, one cabonett £ v.

Itm.	One ioyned table		x8.
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Itm. One bedsted w th a lyne and a matt	ijs. vjd.
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Itm. Two bedsteads wth lynes, one featherbed, one boulster, one blanket, two cov^{er}lets, one livery table, one longe ioyned stoole, one fyer panne, and one payre of cobbirons . . . xv8.

Itm. One planck table, one round table, and long stoole, one stoole of a bord's end . . . vjs.

Itm. One plank table wth fower feete, one bread binge, thre shelves, one basene, one ewer, two glasses,
one jugg iiijs.

Itm. One bedstead wth a canapie, a lyne and a matt, one fetherbed, two boulsters, two pillowes, two
 blancketts, one covlett, one lyvery table, one chayer, one stoole, one little stoole, one payre
 of bellows, one payre of cobirons, one fyer panne, one payer of tonges, one plancke to laye
 before the fyer xxvs.

The lease of the Priorie of Wangford	£ cccc.
The lease of Bulecampe from Mrs. Jerningham to Sir Thomas Rous, for threscore yeres yf she lyve soe long, and a rent reserved of threscore pounds a yere, to be payed quarterly unto her, and for non payment she to reenter	£ x.
Suma totalis £ MCC.xxxi. xiijs. iiijd.	

Not far distant from the site of the modern Henham Hill stands a venerable oak, which, though scathed and shorn of its leafy honours, is noted for its legend of loyalty and conjugal affection.



For the following relation of this tale of former days, I am indebted to the pen of Miss Agnes Strickland, whose 'Lives of the Queens of England,' and numerous other works, have established her fame as the most popular authoress of her time. In a letter to the writer on this subject she says, "I really wish it were in my power to communicate any thing calculated to be of service to you in your much-needed 'History of Suffolk;' but I fear the story of the Henham Oak, though a very picturesque legend, rests on a vague and doubtful foundation—that of oral tradition—handed down from village chroniclers of former days, a race, now, I fear, extinct.

"One of these worthies told me, many years ago, that there was a brave gentleman, of the Rous family, in the great rebellion, whose life was preserved when a party of the rebels came down to Henham with a warrant for his arrest, by his lady concealing him in the hollow trunk of that venerable old oak, beneath the windows of the Hall. This tree being used by the family as a summer-house, was luckily provided with a door

faced with bark, and which closed so artificially, that strangers not aware of the circumstance, would never suspect that the tree was otherwise than sound. The hero of the tale was, I presume, the cavalier Baronet Sir John Rous, to whom King Charles II. wrote an autograph letter, thanking him for his loyal services. According to the story, the roundhead authorities used threatening language to the lady to make her declare her husband's retreat, but she courageously withstood all their menaces. They remained there two or three days, during which time she, not daring to trust any one with the secret, stole softly out at night to supply her lord with food, and to assure herself of his safety. I fancy this conjugal heroine must have been the beautiful Elizabeth Knevitt, whose portrait is preserved at Henham. It is possible, however, that the tradition may belong to a period still more remote. Our Suffolk peasants are not an imaginative race, therefore I should be inclined to think that the incident really did occur to a former possessor of Henham. In the course of my historical investigations, I have generally found that tradition, if not always the truth, was, at least, a shadowy evidence of some unrecorded fact; and I am always anxious to believe any thing to the honour of my own sex.

"The oak was afterwards a noted resort for select Jacobite meetings of a convivial nature, when Sir Robert Rous, and two or three staunch adherents of the exiled house of Stuart, were accustomed to drink deep healths 'to the King over the water,' on bended knees."

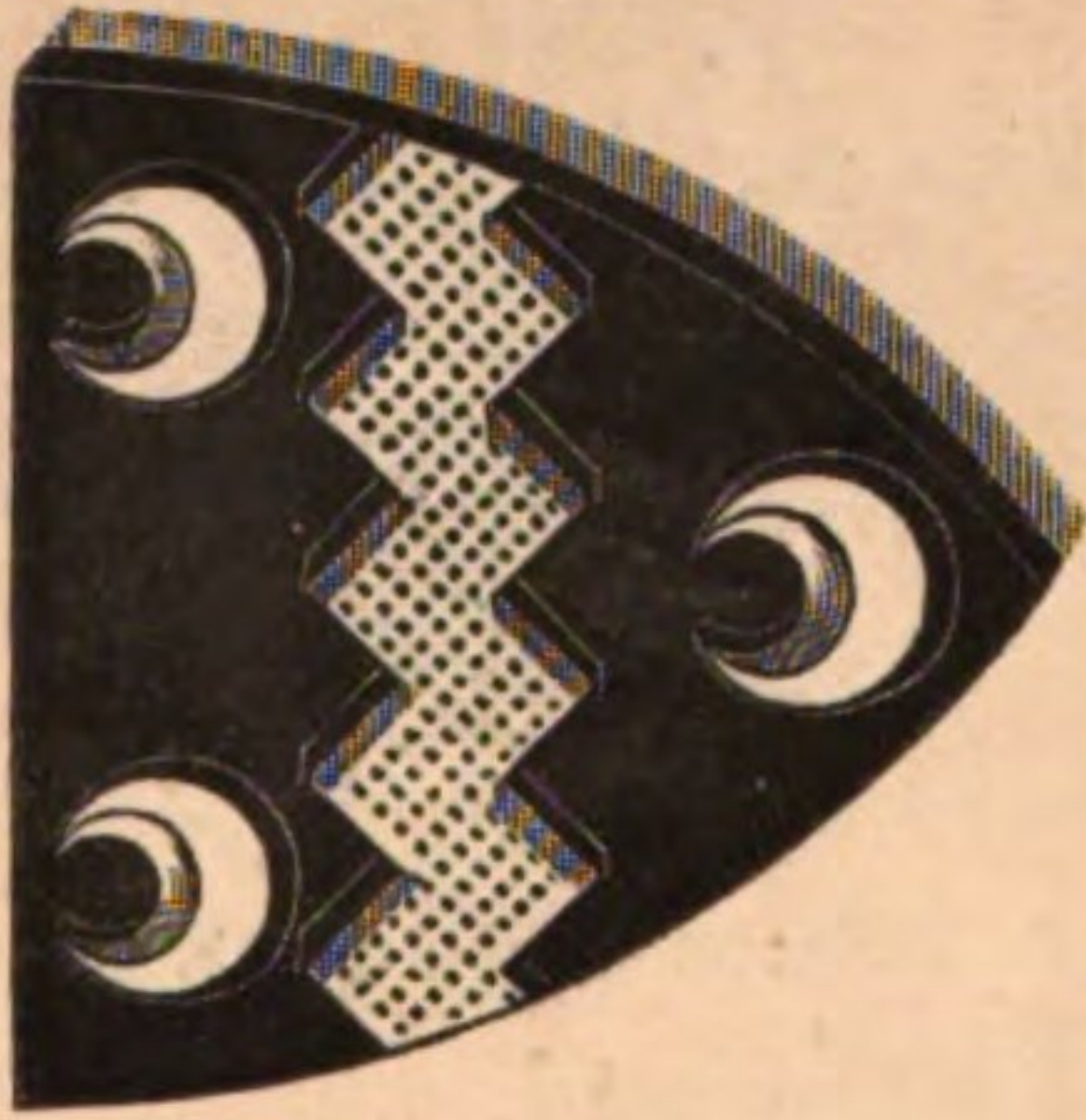
The autograph letter, mentioned by Miss Strickland, is dated from Breda, April 27th, 1660, being the exact day and year on which others of a like nature were forwarded by a confidential agent from the exiled monarch to his friends in England. They are not all couched in the same words, but from their general tenor appear to be circulars issued to various cavaliers of influence and activity in their respective neighbourhoods.

It is no newes to me to heare of your good affection, which I always promised myselfe from your family, yett I was very well pleased with the accounte this bearer brought to me from you of the activity you have lately used for the promoting my interest, in which so many have followed the good example you gave, that I hope I and you, and the whole nation, shall shortly receive the fruit of it, and that I may give you my thanks in your own country: in the mean time you may be confidant I am

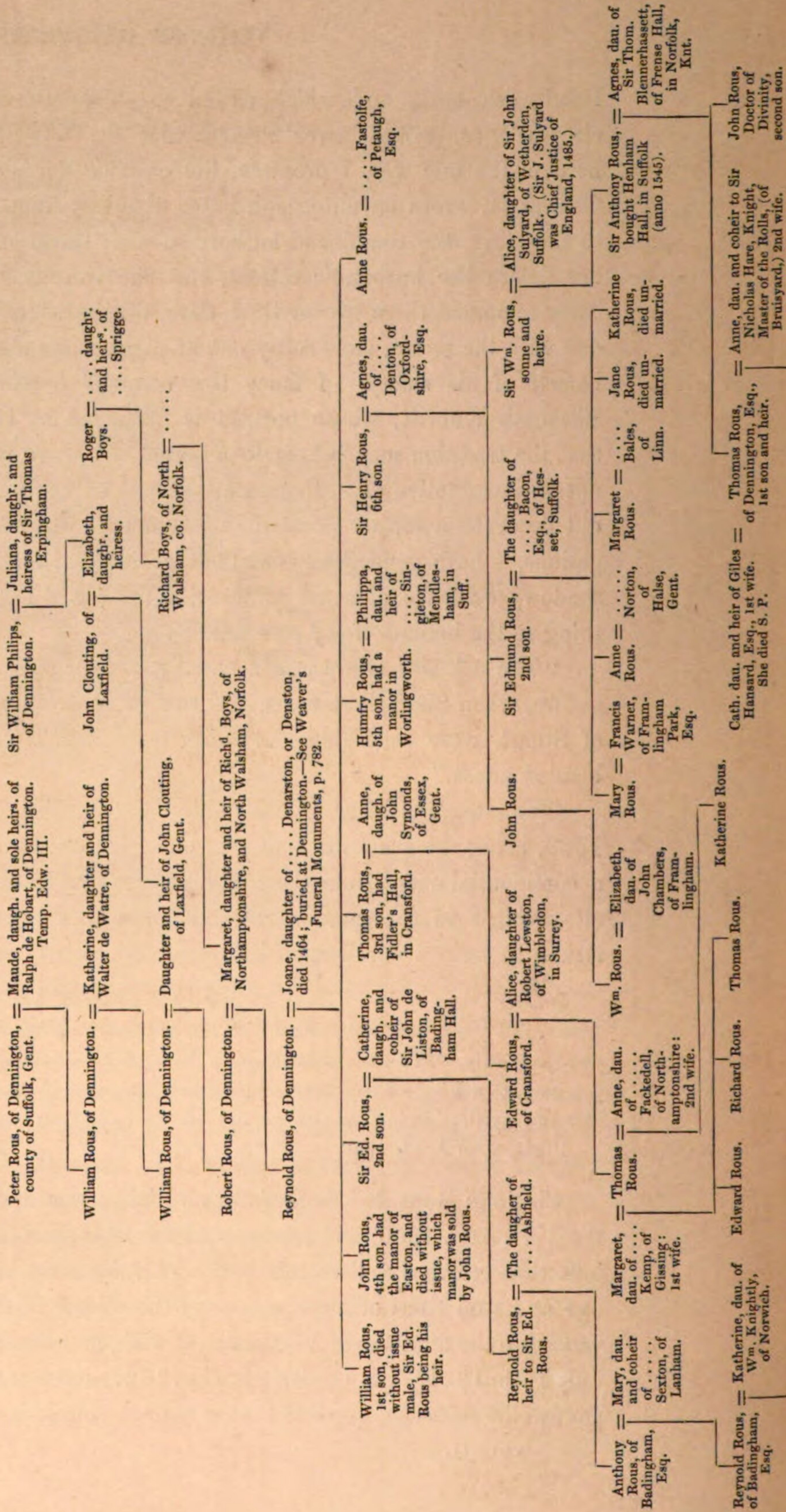
Breda, 27th April, 1660.

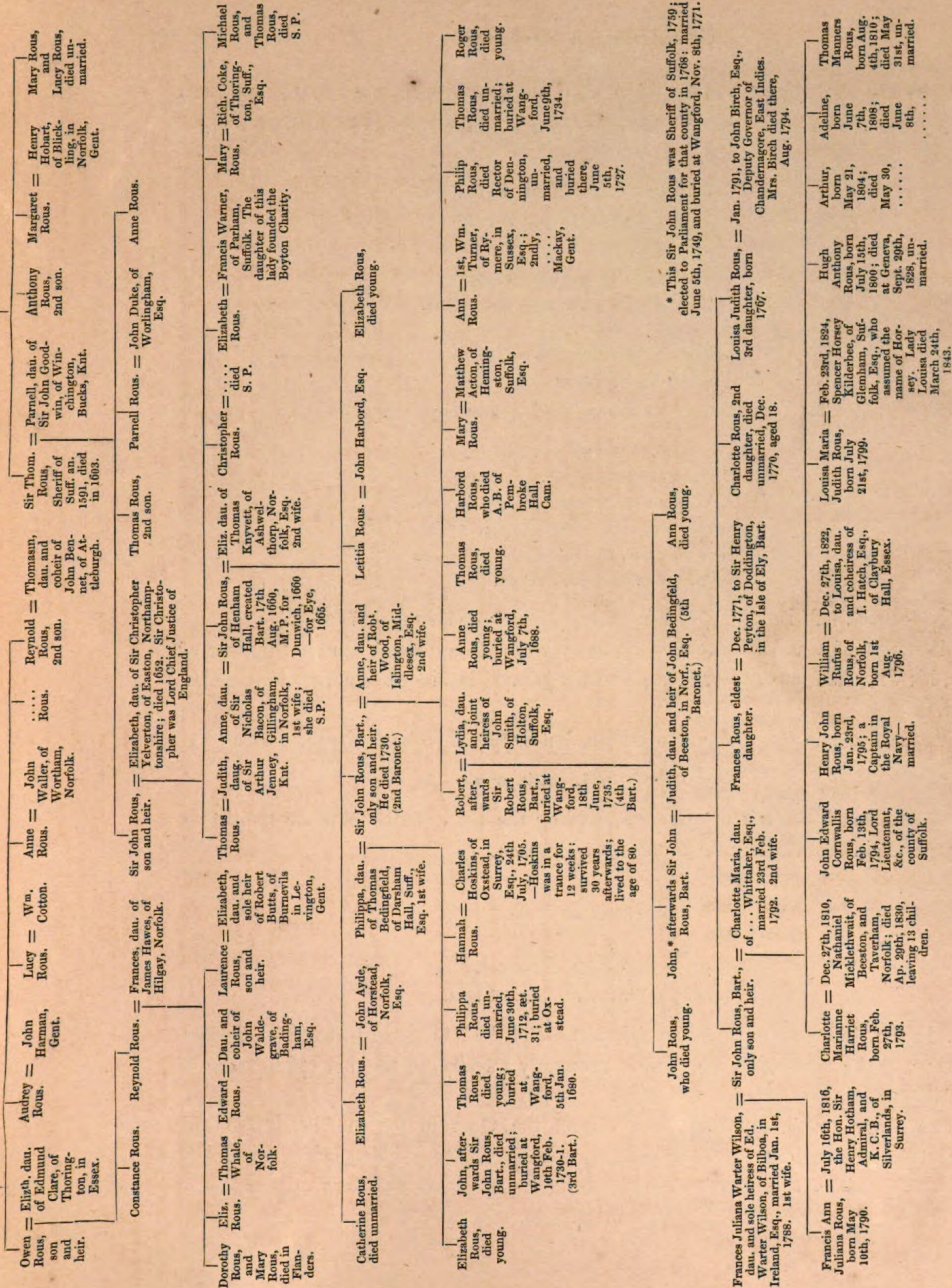
Your affectionate friende, CHARLES R.

Sir John Rous, to whom the above letter was addressed, was created a Baronet on the 17th Aug. 1660, and represented the borough of Dunwich in the Parliament of the following year. His descendant, Sir John Rous, sixth Baronet, was elevated to the peerage as Baron Rous of Dennington, in the county of Suffolk, June 14th, 1796, and advanced to the dignities of Viscount Dunwich, and Earl of Stradbroke, in the same county, July 18th, 1821. His Lordship died in 1827, and was succeeded by his son, John Edward Cornwallis Rous, the present Earl, Viscount Dunwich, Baron Rous, and a Baronet.



Rous.





In the present Hall, represented in the opposite illustration, is the following collection of portraits; foremost in which stands that of the heroic Elizabeth Knevet.

PICTURES IN HENHAM HALL.

In the Billiard Room.

1. Inscribed

Eliz. Knevet, of Ashwell Thorp,
Norf., 2^d wife of Sir John Rous, Bart.

2. Sir John Rous, Bart., father of the first Lord Rous.

3. His lady—mother of the first Lord Rous.

4. Sir Christopher Yelverton in his Judge's robes and cap, a half length.

1603. A^o ætatis sue. 66.

Quantum mutatus ab illo.

Prolocutor Parlimenti, A^o 39 Eliz. R^{ne}.

Servius ejusdem R^{ne} ad legem. A^o 40

Unus Justiciar. ad Plita coram ipsa. R^{na}.

Tenenda assignat. A^o 44.

5. A portrait, half length, of Queen Elizabeth, on wood, in a ruff.

6. Portraits of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and Mary, Queen Dowager of France, his wife, half lengths; their right hands joined; in his left hand is an artichoke. A print.

7. A small female figure, name unknown, but supposed to be a Hare, inscribed

Anno Domini, 1583. ætatis sue xij.

8. A half-length portrait of Herodias, holding the head of St. John the Baptist in a charger. Painted by Lucas de Cronach, or Cranach.

In the Business Room.

9. Inscribed

Philippa Bedingfield, of Darsham,
1st wife of Sir John Rous, 2nd Bart.

10. In the dining-room, a full-length portrait of the late Earl of Stradbroke, when Lord Rous, in the uniform of the Suffolk Yeomanry Cavalry, in the first raised troop of which his Lordship was captain.

Queen Mary appointed Lady Rous one of the Quorum for Suffolk, "who did usually sit on the bench at assizes and sessions among other justices, cincta gladio."¹⁴

¹⁴ Harl. MSS. 980.



HENHAM HALL.

THE SEAT OF THE RT HON THE EARL OF STRADBROKE.

London, Published by the Author

Printed by J. Smith & Co

This masculine lady, and, I presume, dispenser of indifferent justice, must have been Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Blennerhasset, of Frense, in the county of Norfolk. I have met with no cases on record of her magisterial decisions. Mary Rous, daughter of Sir John Rous, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Christopher Yelverton, married Richard Coke, grandson of the celebrated Sir Edward Coke; the only son of which marriage inherited the Holkham estates, upon failure of the male descendants of John Coke, Esq., who died at Honington, in Suffolk, in 1661.¹⁵ Philippa, daughter of Sir John Rous, by his first wife, died of the small-pox, unmarried, at Oxsted, in Surrey, at Sir William Hoskin's house."¹⁶

Henstead.

HENESTEDE was a beruite only in Saxon times, attached to the great manor of Wrentham; and was so considered at the compilation of the Conqueror's Survey. A carucate of land here was occupied by four villeins and nine bordars: one plough was employed on the demesne lands, and two were kept by the tenants. Its live stock was then enumerated at six cows, forty sheep, twelve swine, and twenty goats, and its value estimated at 20 shillings. Two free-men, with thirty acres of land, had been added to Henestede when the Domesday returns were made, and the two estates were held under William de Warren, by Godfrey de Petro Ponte, or Pierpoint.¹ This family, which derived its name from the town of Pierrepont, in Picardy, most probably came into England with William the Conqueror, though the name does not occur in the Roll of Battle Abbey. Sir Simon de Pierpoint, who in 1271 obtained license of free-warren in his estates in Benacre, Wrentham, and Henstead,² was a knight of large possessions, and remarkable for his steady attachment to King Henry III. The family flourished for about three centuries in this neighbourhood; Sir Simon de Peyrpond, Knt., presenting to the church of Henstead in 1316. John, son of this Sir Simon, married Ela, the daughter of Sir William de Calthorpe, who settled on them the manor of Hurst Pierpoint, in Sussex, on their marriage, in the fifth of Edward III.³ Soon after this period their interests ceased in Henstead, though the

¹⁵ Blomefield, art. Holkham.

¹ Domesday, 399 b.

² Carta, 56 Hen. III. p. u. m. 1.

¹⁶ Le Neve's MSS. 1712.

³ Blomefield, art. Calthorpe.

line did not become extinct till the latter end of the last century, in the person of Evelyn Pierrepont, Duke of Kingston, who died in 1773.

The Testa de Nevil informs us, that Roger de St. Denis held Henstead at that period by the service of half a knight's fee.

Rog̃s de Scõ Dionesio tenet Henestet p. servic. feodi di. mil.

This must have been the manor afterwards called Blundeston, Savags, and Henstead, which in the middle of the reign of Edward III. was possessed by Alan de Henstede, who, in 1349, presented John de Hensted to the rectory. The family of St. Denis had estates here, and lived in the neighbouring village of Willingham, where they were landowners in the fourteenth century, if not earlier. In the tenth of Edward II., they are thus noticed :

*Eod. mod. mon. R. Simon le Deneys de Wylingham, et Agnes, fil. Robti de Bolle, de magna Framelingham, qđ cum ipsi nup. in cur. R. apud Henhowe, rec. seis. suam v. Idam, q. fuit ux. Simonis le Deneys de Wylingham, et al. de uno mesuagio et viginti acr. trē cum ptin. in Wylingham et Henestede, &c.*⁴

Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Philip Branch, Knt., and widow of John Clere, Esq., of Ormesby, in Norfolk, who afterwards married Sir John Rothenhall, Knt., by her will, dated on the 16th of October, 1438, and proved on the 9th of July, 1441, bequeathed to Robert Clere, her son, all her goods at Ormesby, and to Edmund Clere, her son, all her goods at Caistor, and her manors of Rothenhall, Claydon, and Henstead, in Suffolk.⁵

In 1442, and in 1444, we find William Paston, of Paston, in Norfolk, and William Cove, jointly presenting to the church, who were succeeded in this right by the family of Jenney. In 1490, William Yermouth was patron, but in the twenty-first of Henry VII., Sir William Clopton, of Long Melford, held the manor and patronage of Henstead. Thomasine Clopton, his widow, had a life interest in the same, from whom they descended to William Clopton, Esq. A deed, dated the 1st of November, eighteenth of Elizabeth, between Humphrey Yarmouth, of Henstead, Gent., on the one part, and William Sydnor, of Blundeston, Esq., on the other part, recites, that Mary Barnardistone, widow, late wife of George Barnardistone, Gent., deceased, sometye wief of William Clopton, late of Long Melford, Esq., was seized of life, in the name of her jointure, of the gift of the said Clopton, of and in the manor and manors of Henstead, alias Blundeston, Savags,⁶ and Hensteds, with the appurtenances,

⁴ Rot. Scac. de an. 10 Ed. II. Rot. 27.

⁵ Blomefield.

⁶ Savags, or Savage's, must be a term derived from some ancient possessor, and there is still a wood in Henstead called Savage's.

in Suffolk; reversion in the said Humphrey Yarmouth;—that the said Mary Barnardistone, by indre of the 21st of March, sixth of Elizabeth, had, inter alia, demised the said manor, &c., unto Thomas Clopton, Esq., son of William, for the term of forty years, if she should so long live; rent £ 53. 6s. 8d. per annum;—that the said term of years was also in the said Yarmouth, by an assignment thereof, dated 21st of April, fifteenth of Elizabeth: it was witnessed, that the said Yarmouth, in consideration of £ 1720, paid by Sydnor, did grant, &c., to the said Sydnor, in fee, all that the reversion, &c., of the said manor or manors of Henstead, alias Blundestons, Savags, and Hensteds, with the appurtenances, and the advowson and right of patronage of the church of Henstead aforesaid, and also the reversion of the buildings, &c.; and also of all other the messuages, lands, rents, and hereditaments of the said Humphrey Yarmouth, situated, &c., in the towns or fields of Henstead aforesaid, Wrentham, Benacre, Satterley, South Cove, Frosenden, Northales, Reydon, Uggeshall, Stoven, Kessingland, Ruskmer, or ellswere, within the Hundreds of Wangford and Mutford, within the said county of Suffolk. And the said Humphrey Yarmouth did further grant, &c., unto the said Sydnor, in fee, one capital messuage called Chamber's, in Henstead, and a hut called Pidgeon's, &c. This deed was acknowledged in Chancery the 13th of November, eighteenth Elizabeth.

This manor, to which the patronage of the church of Henstead has been attached since the tenure of the Pierpoints, must have belonged to that family, though it is not apparent when it was first created.

The manor of Pierpoints in this parish seems to have followed in the same descents as that of Wrentham, through the family of Feines, Lords Dacre, to the Brewsters;⁷ for by a deed, dated 29th March, 1585, we find Humfrey Brewster, of Wrentham, Esq., conveying to William Sydnor, of Blundeston, Esq., “all that manor of Henstede, als Henstede perpounds, lying and being in Henstede, in the county of Suffolk, and all and singular the lands, &c., with the appurtenances, situate, lying, &c., in Henstede aforesaid, now customary or copyhold, holden of the said manor; and of the several manors of Northhall and Southhall, in the county of Suffolk, or of either and each of them, and all the rights, title, &c., and all other my manors, &c., in Henstede, which I lately had and purchased to me and my heirs, by a bargain and sale of the noble Henry Norrys, Knt., Lord Norris of Riscott, and Arthur Chowte, Gent., or either of them.

⁷ This lordship was styled the manor of Henstead, alias Henstead Perpounds, alias Poynings, and appears to have been held *direct* from the Crown, by knights' service, after the year 1397, when Richard Fitz-Alan was beheaded, and who was the heir of William de Warren, of whom the manor was held by the Pierpoints. “Ten de rege p. servic. mil. racone attinct. hered. Com. Warrene, et val. 6s. 8d.—Cole's Esch. v. ii. p. 226.

And all and singular the messuages, &c., except certain lands, rents and services, before sold by Lord Norrys, and the Lady Margaret his wife, to William Sydnor, Humphrey Yarmouth, and others, &c. To have, hold, and enjoy the aforesaid manor of Henstede, als Henstede perpounds, and all and singular, &c., to the said William Sydnor, in fee of the chief lords, &c. Warrantry of the said manor from Brewster, against himself, and others, and against the noble Gregory Fynes, Lord Dacre, Henry Norrys, Knt., Lord Norris of Riscott, and the Lady Margaret, wife of the said Lord Henry, and against Arthur Chowte, Gent., and against the heirs and assigns of each of them.”⁸ Livery and seizin are endorsed. From this period the two manors, though not united, have followed in the same descents.

In Michaelmas Term, twenty-ninth of Elizabeth, appear indres of fine. William Sydnor, Esq., Plt.; Humfrey Brewster, Esq., and Alice his wife, and John Brewster, Esq., deforciant, of the manor of Henstede, alias Henstede perpounds, with the appertenancies, and of eight messuages, eight gardens, thirty acres of land, thirty acres of meadow, twenty of pasture, forty acres of alder, and 100 shillings rent, with the appertenancies of Henstede.⁹

By an inquisition taken at Eye, 16th of January, ninth Charles I., and by another, taken at Bungay, 29th of May, in the tenth of the same King, upon the death of William Sydnor, Gent., he was found to die on the 13th of January, in the eighth of Charles I., 1632, seized, inter alia, of the manor of Henstead, with view of frankpledge, &c., in that village, and in Wrentham, Benacre, Sotterley, &c., and the advowson of the church of Henstead—valued at 60 shillings.

In 1662, Sir Robert Brook, of Yoxford, presented to the church of Henstead; but whether he had actually the fee of the manor, or was only trustee, is not certain, though there is reason to think he was the purchaser of it after the death of William Sydnor, in 1632, who died without male issue.¹⁰

In 1687, Henry Mildmay, of Strawford, in the parish of Twyford, in Hampshire, was lord, who, by a codicil annexed to his will, and dated November 3rd, 1704, devised as follows: Imprimis, I do hereby devise, limit, and appoint, all those my manors of Henstead, and Henstead Pounds, and Poynings, in the parish of Henstead, and other parishes, and all my freehold and copyhold estates in Suffolk, with their, and every their rights, &c., unto Anne Halliday, widow, and relict of Samuel Halliday, my kinsman, late of London, wine-cooper, deceased, and Richard Crane, of London, upholsterer, brother to the said Anne, to hold the said premises to them, or the

⁸ The Lady Margaret, wife of Henry, Lord Norrys, was daughter and coheiress of Lord Williams, of Thame. His mother was Margaret, daughter of Thomas, Lord Dacre.

⁹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

¹⁰ Vide vol. i. p. 311.

survivors of them, their heirs and assigns, for ever, in trust—to pay and apply the rents, &c., to and for the maintenance and education of Apphia Halliday, daughter of the said Anne, until she attain the age of eighteen years, or marry—as followeth, to and with Richard Halliday, son of Richard Halliday, a clothier of Bradford, in the county of Wilts; and when such marriage is effected, I do appoint my said trustees, &c., shall stand and be seized of the said premises to and for the use of the said Apphia Halliday, and her appointed husband, for their lives; and after their decease, to the eldest, or only son of their bodies, lawfully begotten; and after his decease, to the eldest grandson of Apphia, and the heirs male of such grandson. And for default of such issue, to the sole benefit of my grand-daughter, Letitia Mildmay, and her right heirs for ever. But if the said Apphia shall happen to die before her marriage, as aforesaid, then my said trustee, Anne Halliday, shall receive the rents, &c., to her own use, *dum sola et casta se gesserit*; that is to say, whilst she remains a widow, and then my said trustees, and their heirs, shall stand seized of the premises to and for the sole benefit of the said Richard Halliday, the son; subject to the same settlement of father, son, and grandson, as was before directed to the said Apphia, if she had lived, and as if again repeated and set forth.

Apphia married the said Richard Halliday, and had issue, living at her husband's death, Mildmay, Robert, Anne, and Jane. Mildmay Halliday died in the lifetime of his mother, without issue. Robert and Jane died single. Anne Halliday, the sole surviving child and issue of the aforesaid Richard Halliday, by Apphia his wife, married John Amyas, of Beccles, Gent.; and the manor and advowson of Henstead descended to the Rev. John Amyas, clerk, their son, who was instituted to the rectory on the 21st of December, 1793.¹¹ Mr. Amyas sold the advowson of Henstead to Robert Sparrow, Esq., of Worlingham Hall, in 1799, for £2500, and afterwards disposed of the manor to Thomas Kett, Esq., of Seething, in Norfolk, who held his first court on the 13th of November, 1801.¹² By this gentleman the manor was transferred to Charles Barclay, Esq., who married a daughter of Mr. Kett, and held his first court as lord, on the 6th of September, 1811. Mr. Barclay sold the manor to Robert Sheriffe, Esq., the date of whose first court is December 19th, 1834, from whom it passed by will to the present possessor, the Rev. Thomas Sheriffe, who on the 1st of June, 1842, held his first court as lord. This gentleman is also the incumbent and patron of the rectory. The present Henstead Hall is not the original manor-house. It appears to have been purchased by Mr. Amyas, of the Bence family,

¹¹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

¹² The Rev. John Amyas died suddenly, on the 18th of April, 1810, aged 62 years. He was educated at Caius College, Cambridge, and proceeded to the degree of B.A. in 1770.

who resided in it. It used to be called the White House, not many years ago, and before that the Head House. In 1725, when the land-tax, amounting to two shillings the quarter, in the pound, was collected by Edward Clarke, we find Mrs. Halliday charged for the "Woods," and Mr. Robert Bence for the "Head House."

In a deed dated the sixteenth and seventeenth of George II., the lordship is described as the manor of Henstead perpound and Poynings, with the appurtenances, and of 10 messuages, 3 tofts, 16 gardens, 500 acres of land, 500 of meadow, 500 pasture, 30 wood, 600 furze and heath, 500 marsh, common of pasture for all manner of cattle, common turbary, free fishery, court-leets, courts-baron, perquisites and profits of courts, rents, services, royalties, and jurisdictions, with the appurtenances in Heanstead, otherwise Henstead, Satterley, Wrentham, Benacre, Rushmere, Mutford, and Gisleham, and also the advowson of the church of Heanstead, otherwise Henstead, in the county of Suffolk.¹³ Although held by the same lords for nearly three centuries past, there are, in fact, still two manors in Henstead. A separate homage is sworn for each; and there are separate courts, though often held simultaneously. The earliest court-book in the possession of the present lord begins December 21st, 1686. From that time to 1694, courts appear to have been holden on the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle.

The following are copies of old deeds relating to lands in this parish, during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.¹⁴

Sciant, &c., qd. ego Willius Franceys de Motforthe, dedi, &c., Waryno Sewale, jun., de ead. Rado. Reynekyn, de Northcove, et Rado Alwan, de ead. quinque rod. prati, &c., in Henstede. In cujus, &c. Hiis testibus Ryco Kaunseler, Johane de lane. Willmo Holdheryng. Tho. fil. suo. Ryco Lestelyn, Warino Sewale, sen., Willmo Seman, Waryno Reynald, Tho. Wylde, et aliis. Dat. apud Motforthe, die dnica px. post. fest. Sci. Luce, Evangel, A^o. R. R. Rici sed. a conq. quintodecimo.

Sciant, &c., qd. nos Wills. Ryping, de Mutford, et Ricus Langley, de ead. dimiscimus, &c. Thome Alwyn, jun., Willo Stanley, Arm^s. Radulpho et Johi Warner, tot. ill. dim. acr. prati, &c. in Hensted, &c. In cujus, &c. Hiis testibus Willo Olderyng, Robto Baldewyn, Robto Daune, Willo Schapeleyn, Thoma Baker, et aliis. Dat. apud Hensted, xvj^o. die Sept. A^o. R. R. Edw. quarti quintodecimo.

In 1641, the village of Henstead sustained considerable injury from fire, but the assertion contained in the following indenture, that the "church and chauncell of the said towne" were burnt, is disproved by the fact that the ancient nave, of Norman construction, is still remaining. The old carved benches and wood-work

¹³ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

¹⁴ Idem, from the originals in the possession of the Brewster family, A. D. 1809.

of the interior most probably perished, as did the greater part of the chancel. The fire was communicated from a farm-house and premises, adjoining the east end of the church, in which it had broken out by accident. These premises, which were not rebuilt, stood opposite to the present Henstead Hall. In the parish register is the following notice of this event: "Elizabeth, the daughter of Alexander Burnet, clerk, and Elizabeth his wife, was born in the parsonage-house of Henstead, the 23rd of August, 1641, and baptized the tenth day of September, in the parish church of Rushmore, because the parish church of Henstead was then burnt downe."

Two Indres made after the fire at Henstead, April 12, 1658, to remain in the handes of the said Thomas Clarke.

Betweene Thomas Clarke, of Henstead, in the countie of Suff., Gent., of the one pte, and Thomas Lone the elder, Gent., Edward Ellis, Gent., John Ellis, sonne of the said Edward, John Clarke, Gent., the onelie sonne of the said Thomas Clarke, Thomas Aldred, John Aldred the elder, John Aldred the younger, sonne of the aforesaid John, Matthew Balls, Nicholas Maye, and Edward Judie, of the other part; Witnesseth, that whereas by a suddaine and lamentable fire that happened in the said towne of Henstead, in the yeare of our Lord God 1641, there was not onelie severall howses of severall psons burnt downe by the same, togeather with the towne howse, but att the same tyme the church and chauncell of the said towne, in which was a chest, where amongst other thinges were all the wrightinges and evidences that did concerne or any waies belonge or apptaine to the towne howse and landes belonging to the saide towne of Henstead aforesaid, were alsoe burnt, consumed, and utterlie lost, soe that the inhabitantes of the said towne now hath not any deeds or wrightinges to shewe concerninge any pte of the same, but onlye the coppie of an order or decree, which was, in the yeare of our Lord God 1608, written downe in the five and thirtieth page of the register booke of the said towne, as by the said register booke may appeare. And further, whereas the s^d towne landes have alwaies bin in the handes of feoffees and of the survivour or survivours of them, to such intents and uses as hereafter shall be exprest. And whereas the said Thomas Clarke, beinge the onlie surviving feoffee of the said towne landes of Henstead, beinge desirous that the said towne landes might remain still in feoffees handes, and be employed to such uses, intents, and purposes as formalie the same have usually bin. And that in tyme to come, those to whom it doth and may concerne, may not onlie take notice of what formly have happened, as before is exprest, but alsoe may knowe how, to whom, and in what manner, the towne landes aforesaid might be settled and conveyed, and to what uses, intents, and purposes, that therebie the towne might enioy its rightes, and the pfitts of the landes aforesaid might be employed to right uses, according to righte, equitie, and good conscience. Now this Indre further witnesseth, that the aforesaid Thomas Clarke, for the considerations aforesaid, hath enfeoffed, granted, &c., to the aforesaid Thomas Lone, &c., to have and to hold, &c., or the survivors of them that shall be presente, shall, upon the Munday in everie Easter weeke for ever hereafter, within the prish church of Henstead aforesaid, give full power and authoritie under their handes unto the churchwardens of the said towne that are chosen uppon the same day and in the same place, to enter in and uppon the above mensoned pmisses, and the same to dimise and leate for a yeare, yeares, or otherwise, as the said feoffees, or the greater pte of them, then and there psent, shall agree uppon, to the best value. And the issues and pfitts thereof, from tyme to tyme for evermore, by the churchwardens for the tyme being, to yploye and bestowe in and about the repacons of the church of the said towne of Henstead, as need shall require; to the releife of the poore there; and to other good, godlie, and charitable uses within the said towne. Churchwardens to account at the year's end.

And further, that soe often as it shall happen in tyme to come, that the aforesaid feoffees to die but three, that then these three soe surviveinge, or the survivors or survivor of them, when any of the inhabitants of the said towne of Henstead shall require it, shall make a new feoffment, and shall nominate and enfeoffe other tenn men of the said towne of Henstead, that shall be then seized of an estate of inheritance, or that in p̄babilitie may hereafter be soe seized. And if there shall not be soe many of the said towne there inhabitinge soe seized, that then they shall nominate out of other townes adioyninge that have such an estate of inheritance.

These lands are held of the lord of the manor of Henstead by a free-rent of four pence.

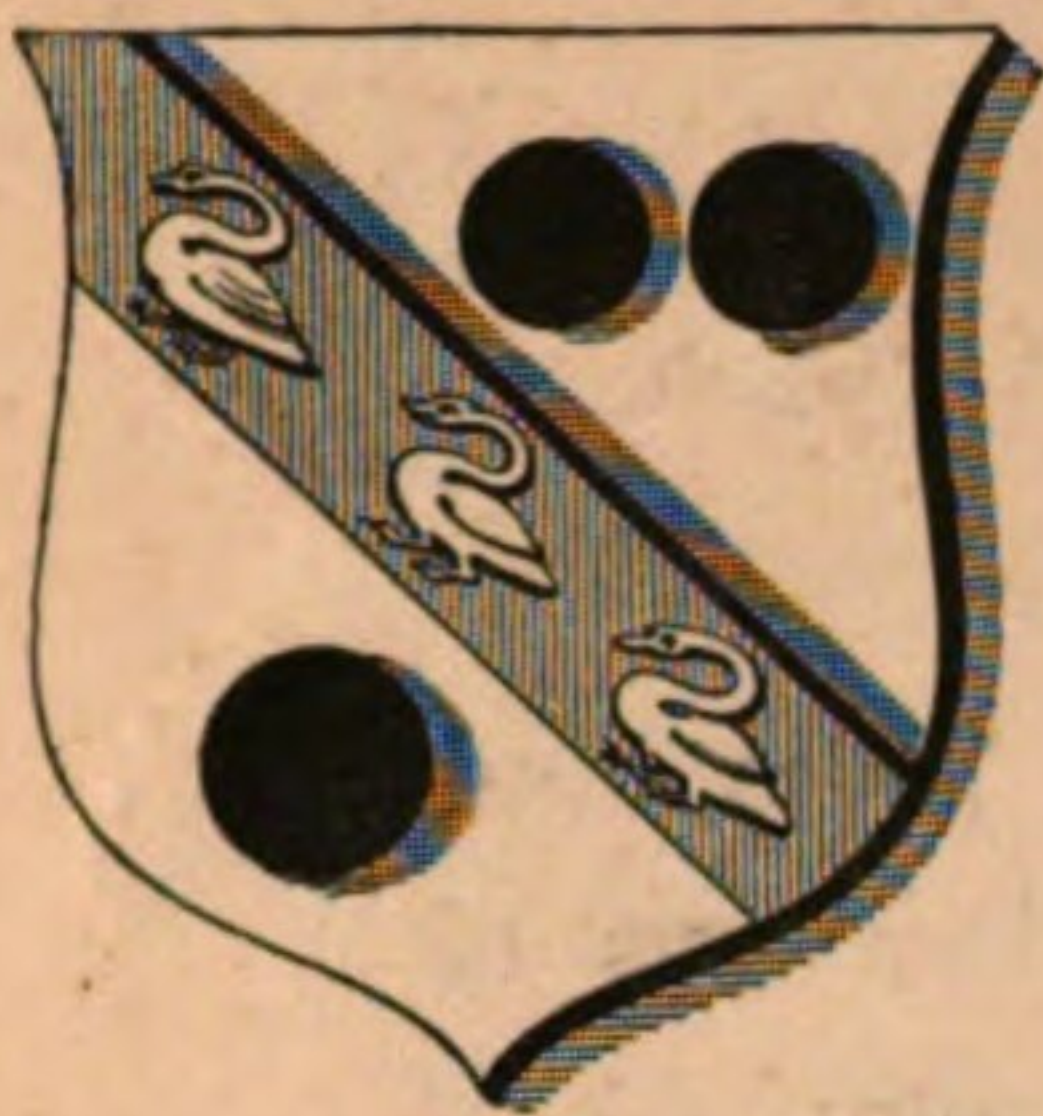
The family of Clarke, mentioned in the preceding indenture, is of considerable antiquity in Henstead, having been seated in this parish for nearly three centuries. A William Clarke, of Henstead, was buried here in 1545, and Elizabeth Clarke married in 1548. It is not certain, however, that these persons were ancestors of the family in question, which appears rather to have sprung from another race; as John Clarke, who purchased the site of their subsequent residence, in 1575, of Humphrey Brewster, Esq., of Wrentham, is designated of St. Margaret Ilketshall, in the purchase deed. In 1578, Jeffrey Bacon sold arable lands to the same John Clarke, called "Henstead Close," and other pieces of land containing nearly fifty acres, by the side of "John Willson, his pasture," &c. On the 12th of November, 1604, Thomas Clarke, of Henstead, purchased an estate of Thomas Wilson in the same village, for £47. 10s.; and in 1641, his son bought lands called "Fairweather's" at Henstead for £520, of Thomas Buttolph, of Holkham; the lord's rent on which was £1. 0s. 2d., and four capons and a hen. In 1716, a very high composition was paid for the fowls, as appears by the court-books, wherein they are charged at 4s. 6d. Gregory Clarke, whose will bears date May 11th, 1723, died seized of houses and lands in Bungay, and in the parishes of Earsham, St. Margaret, St. Peter, and Flixton, South Elmham; and in Mettingham and Fressingfield. He left, among other legacies, to "son John my silver basin, one silver porringer, four silver spoons of the best value, and my three silver castors." To the poor of Bungay, £5; the poor of Mettingham, twenty shillings; the poor of Earsham, twenty shillings; to be distributed in the church-yards. To his wife, all his wheat, cheese, coals, household goods, plate, linen, &c.; and constitutes his son, Robert, his sole executor. Their estate was situated on the northern part of the parish, near the old Hundred bridge, a picturesque structure of timber, which has given place to a modern arch of brick, which now spans the "Willingham water." The residence and estate of this family have lately been purchased by the Rev. Thomas Sheriffe, the present lord of the manor.



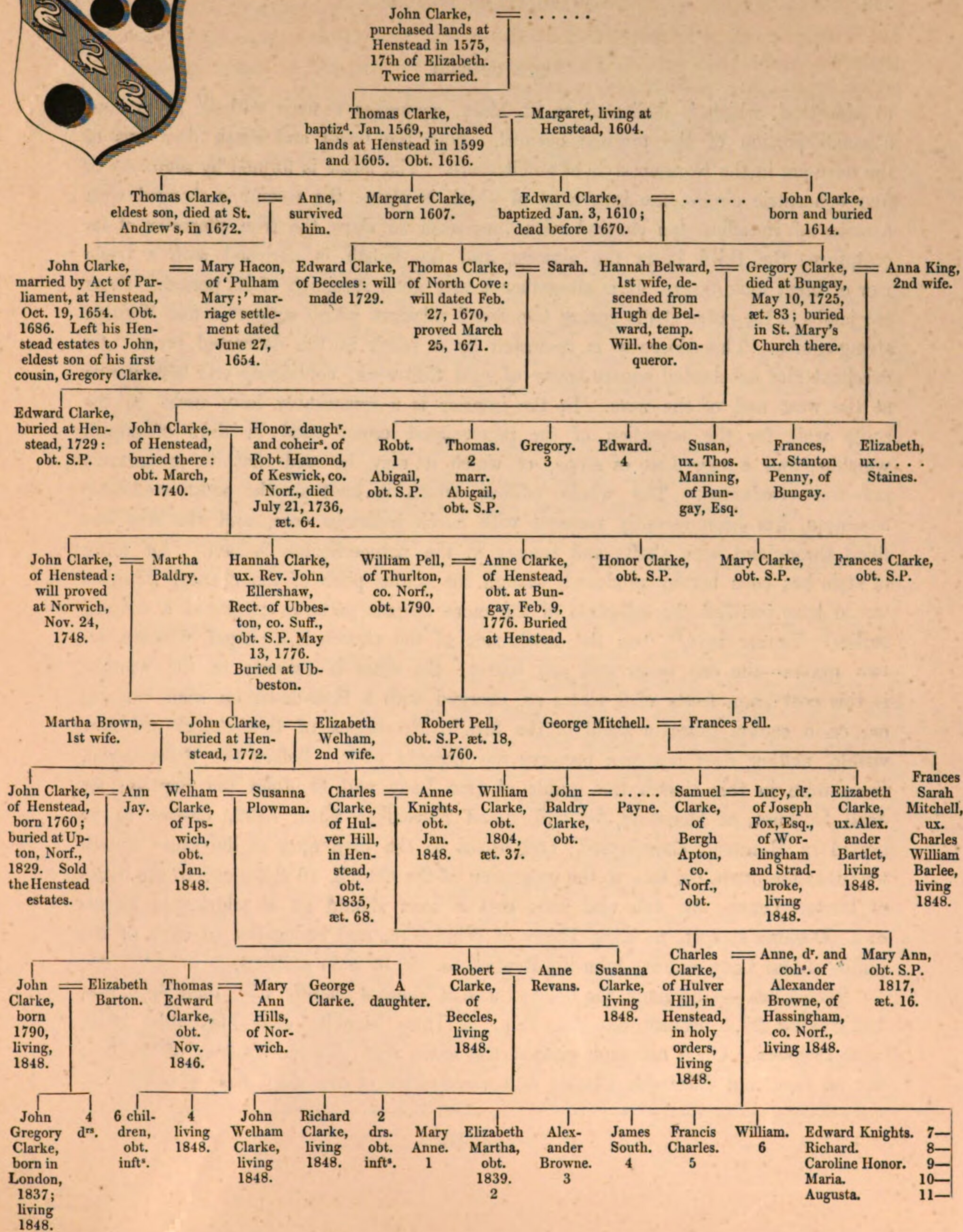
THE OLD HUNDRED BRIDGE, HENSTEAD.

London. Published by the Author.

Printed by Sanderson & Co.



Clarke.



THE CHURCH

at Henstead, which is dedicated to St. Mary, comprises a nave without aisles, and a small portion of the original chancel. Both the north and south doorways of the nave are in the Norman style of architecture. The latter is formed by segments of four concentric circles, the innermost of which is plain: the second is charged with a series of roundles, too clogged with lime-wash to show the true character of its sculpture: the third bears the zigzags, and the fourth is enriched with a triple row of billet mouldings. It is altogether a very good specimen of its period. From the jambs of the outer shafts spring two small pilasters which support a flat Norman string-course. This doorway is protected by a porch in the decorated style. An excellent and substantial square tower of split flint-work, containing one bell, stands at the west end of the nave. In the interior is a remarkably lofty niche in the south wall, for the reception of the processional cross, used in days of popish worship; and a new font of stone, of which it may be said that its proportions are too attenuated. The whole edifice, which is kept in the most creditable condition, has been recently restored with much judicious care, and the windows filled throughout with shafts and tracery in the perpendicular fashion. An unity of style has been hereby produced, though the acuter pitch of the chancel windows would have justified the adoption of the more elegant patterns employed a century earlier. Tanner says,¹⁵ "on the south side of the church is a chapel, wherein are two graves—the one never had any brasse; the other is reaved: in the window is this coat: arg. fretty of 8 pieces az. charged with a fleur-de-lis on each crossing or; on a canton gules, a soleil of the 3rd." No traces of this chapel are now visible, neither does tradition preserve any account of it. Before the Reformation, there were in this church the guilds of Our Lady and St. John the Baptist; for John Dorhunt, of Henstead, by will, dated November 25th, 1492, desires to be buried in Henstead church-yard; and leaves to the high altar of the same church for tithes forgotten, 6s. 8d.; to the reparation of the church, 10 shillings; to the house of Burton Lazars, 3s. 4d.; and wills that a man should go a pilgrimage at his own (Dorhunt's) cost, to King Harry of Windesore, and bequeaths to each of the guilds of Our Lady and St. John the Baptist, 3s. 4d. by even portions.

Monuments.—Georgiana, the beloved wife of Thomas Sheriffe, Clk., died Sept. 8th, 1824, aged 29. Robert Sheriffe, Esq., of Diss, Norfolk, died May 9th, 1840, aged 75 years. On a cenotaph against the south wall: To the memory of William, son of John and Elizabeth Clarke, late commander of the ship *Iris*, who was un-

¹⁵ Suffolk MSS.

fortunately slain on the eve of victory in an attack upon a Dutch ship of superior force, in the Indian Ocean, on the 7th of November, 1804, aged 37. To an ardent and enterprising spirit, and a courage equal to every danger, he joined all the amiable qualities of a dutiful son and an affectionate brother; and by a deportment uniformly open and generous, obtained the regard and esteem of all who knew him.

Robert, third son of Edmund Bence, of Benhall, died December 19th, 1745, aged 72 years.

Robert Sparrow, of Worlingham, died September 15th, 1765, aged 60. Anne, wife of Robert Sparrow, and daughter of Robert Bence, died November 8th, 1776, aged 68.

Laurence, the only surviving son of Robert and Mary Bence, daughter of Laurence Eachard, A. M., died March 31st, 1747, aged 41. Arms: Sparrow, arg. 3 roses and a chief gules, quarters, 2nd and 3rd—arg. a chev. between 3 bugle horns stringed, vert, with an inescutcheon, also quartered: viz. 1st and 4th Bence, arg. on a cross between 4 frets gules, a mural castle of the field; 2nd and 3rd, Eachard, erm. on a bend az., 3 chess-rooks or.

Mary, the last child of the Rev. Brock Rand, of Hardwick, in Norfolk, and second wife of Robert Sparrow, of Worlingham Hall, Esquire, died April 1st, 1809. Arms, quarterly, 1 and 4 Sparrow. 2. Bernard, arg., a bear erect sab. muzzled or. 3. Bence. On an inescutcheon, Rand—or, a lion ramp. gules—charged with 3 chevronels arg.

Mary, daughter of Robert Bence, formerly of this parish, died December 21st, 1792, aged 83.

Laurence Eachard, A. M., hujus eccl. rector, obt. 23 April. 1714, et Anna, ux. ej. obt. 7 Sep. 1721. Arms: Eachard impales Lone—az. a talbot pass. or.

Elizabeth, sister to the late Rev. Martin Johnson, Rector of this parish, died January 30, 1790, aged 80. Honor Clarke, wife of John Clarke, Gent., died July 21, 1736, aged 64. John Clarke, died 30th March, 1740, aged 68. Ann, the wife of William Pell, Gent., daughter of John Clarke, Gent., died February 9, 1776. Robert, their son, died November 27, 1760, aged 18. William Pell, late of Bungay Trinity, Gent., died March 26, 1790, aged 80. Mary Clarke, daughter of John and Honor Clarke, died May 25, 1737, aged 30. Francis Clarke, died June 10, 1737, aged 27. On a marble monument against the south wall are the arms of Mitchell,—a chev. between 3 swans close, bearing Pell in pretence—erm. on a canton az., a pelican or, vulning herself gul.; and this inscription: In a vault in the burial-ground of St. Paul, at Deptford, in Kent, are deposited the remains of George Mitchell, only surviving child of Richard and Sarah Mitchell: of Frances Mitchell, his wife, only surviving child of William and Ann Pell, who died in the prime of their days, within six weeks of each other, in the year 1803: and of Mary Ann Mitchell, their daughter, who died in her infancy. This monument is erected to their memory,

in this church, with every possible sentiment of filial affection and gratitude, by their only surviving child, Frances Sarah Mitchell.

Honor Clarke, daughter of John Clarke, Gent., and Honor his wife, died Sept. 3, 1737, aged 31.

In the church-yard are several stones to the Halliday family—to John Amyas, apothecary, of Beccles, who died January 18, 1780—to the Rev. John Amyas, late Rector of this parish, who died 18th April, 1810, aged 62—to John Clarke, Gent., who died July 5, 1773, aged 44—Elizabeth his wife, who died on the 28th October, 1810, aged 71—to John Clarke, who died 19th November, 1748, aged 51—to Martha his wife, who died 31st May, 1756, aged 56; and to Edward Clarke, who died 19th October, 1729, aged 60—to Charles Clarke, who died May 11th, 1835, aged 68; and Mary Ann, his daughter, who died March 26th, 1817, aged 16.

The earliest register-book for this parish is dated 1539. It is, however, only a transcript of the original record, as we learn from the following entry: "Be it knowne unto all men, that when I, Laurence Beighton, wrote the old regr booke, it was so disorderlie written that I sett some yeares before, wh. should have bene aft' and contrarie wise, because it was so darcke and disorderlie written—nevthelesse you have the true daie and yeare set uppon everye name to my powre and knowledge, by me Laurence Beighton, p̄son of Hensted. By me Thomas Peike, churchwarden there; Wm. George, churchwarden, his m̄rk."

On the outside leaf of the same register-book is—"A briefe recapitulation of auncient ecclesiasticall lawes, by sundrie kinges of this realme, ordained for government of the churche before the conquest," &c. It contains several notices of the incumbents: "A° 1552, the xxivth daie of Januarye in the yeare of or Lord god, 1552, was buried S^r John Gaulte, p̄son of Henstead." The induction of his successor, Mr. Tyrrell, is recorded in the following verses:

"Intrat ovile Dei pastoris munere functus
Edwardus Tyrrell, presbiter Henstediae."

From it we also learn that Laurence Beighton, the transcriber of the original record, was a native of Sheffield. "Nat^s p̄chia Sheffieldiae in Hallomshire, in com. Ebor." He was succeeded, in 1620, by Edward Uttyng, M. A., which latter person was ejected at the rebellion in 1641, or 1642. Walker, in his 'Sufferings of the Clergy,' has mistaken his name for that of Edward Uffen, and says that he was succeeded by an army chaplain. Who his successor was, does not appear from the register-book in this place, though in the eleventh page from the end, it is said John Allin was minister from Michaelmas, 1648, to Michaelmas, 1651. The following document appoints a

keeper of this book: "Suff. I doe allowe of y^e choise of Bennet Sted to be the p̄ish register for y^e towne of hinsted in the county aforesaid, for y^e space of three yeares next ensuing y^e date hereof, or untill some other be thereunto appointed, according to ann acte of P̄liament for marriages, birthes and burialls. dated 24th of August, 1653. Given under my hande the 8th of November, 1653.—F. BREWSTER.

"Heer it is to be observed that for abov 7 years past the keeping of the register hath bin much neglected, and those that are in, are very disorderly placed, so that the more pains must be taken to find those that are in it."

Sted, or Steed, did not long enjoy his office, as we find further on—"Bennet Steed was buried May the twentieth fforth, 1654." His successor is not mentioned, but a certificate of a marriage during the Usurpation will be exemplified by the following extract: "Theise are to certify whome it shall or maye concerne, that on the 19th day of October, 1654, John Clarke and Mary Hacon, after three times publication, were married according to the late Act of P̄liament dated the 24th August, 1653, in the pr̄sence of these wittnesses. Tho. Hacon, Richard Sayer, Robt̄e Gooche, Esq."

RECTORS OF HENSTEAD.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Rad. de Berglisted . . .	1301	Simon de Peyrpond, miles.
Joes de Soterle . . .	1316	Id.
Joes de Henstede . . .	1349	Alan de Henstede.
William Dobbes . . .	1393	Jacob Trenchmere, de Rushmere.
Simon Briggate . . .	1419	Joes Rothenhale, miles.
William Burgh . . .	1442	William Paston de Paston, and William Cove.
Roger Fideon . . .	1444	Id.
Joes Coket . . .	1482	Ed. Jenney.
Robert Framlyngham . .	1488	Id.
Robert Harman . . .	1490	William Yermouth.
William Bratemere . . .	1505	William Clopton, miles.
Christopher Dribeh . . .	1533	Thomasine Clopton, vidua.
Joes Galt . . .	1543	Ead.
Edw. Tyrrell . . .	1552	Assign. Willi Clopton, de Melford, arm.
Joes Gillott . . .	1554	The Bishop, by lapse.
Joes Openshawe . . .		
Michael Nicholson . . .	1579	William Sydnor, de Blundeston, arm.
Laurence Beighton . . .	1595	Id.
Edw. Uttyng . . .	1620	Joes Uttyng, cler.
Laurence Eachard ¹⁶ . .	1662	Robert Brook de Yoxford, miles.

¹⁶ Frequently confounded with Laurence Eachard the historian, who was born at Barsham, in 1671; nine years subsequent to the institution of this incumbent, whose death was presented at a court, held for this manor, 5th Aug. 1715. The historian died in 1730.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Thomas Fynn	1714	Emmanuel College, Cambridge.
Martin Johnson	1727	Id.
John Gordon	1758	Id.
John Amyas	1793	Bevill Paston Chamber, Esq., p. h. v.
Joseph Dixie Churchill . .	1810	Robt. Sparrow, Esq.
Thomas Sheriffe, the younger .	1836	Earl of Gosford, and Dawson Turner, Esq.

Estimatio ejusdem xvij marc. Procuratio vij^s. vj^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis. xij^d., et pro Paschæ termino xij^d. Denarii S. Petri non habentur.—Norwich Domesday.

It will be apparent from the preceding list of incumbents, that in 1714, 1727, and 1758, the right of presentation was exercised by Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Henry Mildmay, Esq., the codicil of whose will, bearing date November 3, 1704, has been recited, devised to that society the power to nominate absolutely to three turns in the rectory of Henstead, and then to proceed as the college could agree with the heirs at law. On this ground, after the death of Dr. Gordon, in 1793, the heir entered a caveat, and contested the right of Emmanuel to present, when the Rev. John Amyas was instituted by Bevill Paston Chamber, Esq.; it having been previously decided that the right was *not* in the college. John Gordon, D. D., the last incumbent nominated under Mr. Mildmay's will, was the sixteenth wrangler of his year. He proceeded to the degree of B. A. in 1748–9, and was afterwards elected Fellow of his college. He was subsequently made Precentor and Archdeacon of Lincoln, and died Rector here, January 5th, 1793. In the 'Gentleman's Magazine' ¹⁷ is a long account of this divine, who was greatly distinguished by his talents and classical learning.

Benefactions and Charities.—The following gifts to the parish of Henstead are recorded in the register-books.

1. There was sent by Mr. Ffrancis Sidno^r xxs. to be distributed amongst the poore people of hensted, w^h was doone accordinglie, before, at, and aft^r Christemas, 1613, as appēthe in p̄ticulas in the olde regr̄.

2. There was also xls. sent from the Justices by Mr. Brewster, of Wrenthm̄, to be distributed to the poore, w^{ch} xls. was lost of Willm Pike for coursinge, and was inditeed thereof, and convicted, and paid it; w^{ch} was given to the poore accordinglie.

3. Katherine Ffeke, widow, left by her last will, sixe shillings, w^h was paid to the churchwardens, 3rd May, 1584.

4. Thomas Skete, of Kessinglande, left by his will unto the church of Henstead sixe shillings, w^h was paid to the churchw^{ns} by his executors, 1st Nov. 1589.

5. Thomas Lone, of Beccles, left by will, bearing date 24th Dec. 1683, to the poor of Henstead, two pounds, with legacies to many other parishes.

¹⁷ Vol. lxiii. pp. 92, 93.

6. Margaret Thorne, widow, of Henstead, left by will, five pounds—the interest of wh. to be distributed yearly amongst the poor of Henstead; obt. March, 1720.

7. John Clarke, Gent., of Henstead, who died 1740, left by will, ten pounds—the interest to be distributed yearly amongst the poor of Henstead.

These two last sums of five and ten pounds were laid out for the benefit of the poor, towards the expense of enclosing their allotments of the commons and waste lands by the rector and churchwardens. The poor's allotment consists of 14 acres of Sotterley common, the rent of which is expended in coals, which are distributed amongst the poor in winter.

The town lands comprise about two acres, for which a rent of £3 per annum is paid by the Rev. Thomas Sheriffe, they being surrounded by the lands of that gentleman, and which formerly belonged to the Rev. John Amyas. The sum of £1 per annum is also paid in respect of a house in the parish of Rushmere.

Henry Branden, of Henstead, joiner, by his will dated the 12th day of March, 1599, bequeaths, after the payment of certain legacies to his god-children, and the decease of Elizabeth his wife, his tenement in Rushmere, with all and singular the lands thereunto belonging, lying and being in Rushmere—one-half of the rents to be distributed to the poor of the parish of Henstead, and the other half to be applied in payment of 6s. 8d. a year to the poor of Rushmere, and the residue to be employed in the reparation of the church of Henstead. Branden's widow died in 1613, as appears from the following entry in the register: "Elizabeth Branden was buried ye xv daye of Januarye, 1613;" and we find the parish soon after took possession.

By an ancient admeasurement of Henstead, the parish was considered to contain 1664 acres 5 perches of old enclosed land, and 224 acres, 1 rood, 14 perches of enclosed commons = 1888 acres, 1 rood, 19 perches. According to the commutation map, the actual extent, exclusive of roads and the river, is 1905 acres.

The rent-charge, in lieu of tithes, amounts to £423, which includes £12 for 39 acres, 2 roods, 4 perches of glebe.

Population in 1841 (including the hamlet of Hulverstreet), 573.

HULVERSTREET

is a hamlet of Henstead, abutting upon its western extremity, and lying in the Hundred of Wangford.

It probably derives its name from the quantities of Hulver-trees and bushes which formerly grew here, and which still flourish very abundantly in its hedge-rows. Hulver

is a provincial term for holly, and we find the word used by Tusser, the ancient Suffolk poet, who, in his 'April's Husbandry,' praises its toughness, and recommends us to

"Save hulver and thorn, thereof flail to make."

In the reign of Charles I., when the arbitrary assessment for ship-money was imposed on the county of Suffolk, the Hamlet of Hulverstreet was returned as having failed to contribute its portion to the general tax. Its defalcation is thus recorded for the year 1640.¹

The 7th of May, 1640.

I certifie that since I receyved y^r wor^{pp}s last warr^t, bearing date the 22 of April last, I have done my best indeavour in p^{er}curing the constables and inhabitants of the p^{ar}ishes wthin my lim^{it} w^{ch} have not made rates for the shipp charg this p^{re}sent yeare to p^{ro}fourme the same, but they have neglected the p^{ro}fourmance hereof, wherefore according to yo^r said warr^t, I retourne both the townes and constables names for that default, viz. the towne of Willingham and Hulverstreet; Leonard Read, constable ther.—THO. GIRLING.

The sum charged upon Willingham and Hulverstreet was £17. 1s. 3½d.

There is an excellent and substantial residence of red brick, built about forty years since by the late Charles Clarke, Esq., which has been recently purchased by the Rev. Thomas Sheriffe, and given by him in exchange, with forty-six acres and twenty-five perches of land adjoining, lying in Hulver, for the old parsonage-house of Henstead, and about thirty-nine acres and a half of glebe, situated in that parish. The said Thomas Sheriffe, as Rector of the rectory and parish church of Henstead, granted and conveyed the former house and lands to the uses, and for the benefit of himself, and his successors, Rectors of the rectory aforesaid. Notice of the intended exchange was dated April 14th, 1846.

Heveningham.

HEVENINGHAM, says Kirby in his 'Suffolk Traveller,' was formerly of note for giving name to the family of Heveningham. This ancient race, though unquestionably deducing their pedigree from a period more remote than most of our English families, cannot be authenticated higher than the thirteenth century; and although men of valour and renown in their day, never arrived at a dignity exceeding knighthood. Though gravely informed that "their coat-armour is come of Arphaxad, the knight which watcht Christ at his sepulchre," we dismiss the relation with a smile at

¹ Harl. MSS. 365.

the credulity of those who could ever have been amused with such a tradition. Morant, in his valuable History of Essex, endeavours to show that Galtir, or Walter de Heveningham, was lord of this village, in the reign of King Canute, about the year 1020; and allies his offspring to families of such distinction, that their name and influence must have been recorded in the general Survey made by the Conqueror, had such alliances existed. But we find no mention of the race in the Domesday returns. On the contrary, Evelincham was held in the time of the Confessor by a Saxon called Stanuin, under the disputed patronage of Harold, and Edric of Laxfield, and at the Survey it was the estate of Roger Bigot, whose under-tenant was named Anschetill.¹ Another estate in Heueniggeham was also possessed by this Norman Baron, and farmed by Ulfketel.² If the family of Heveningham were derived from any of these Saxon free-men, as possibly they were, and afterwards, in accordance with an almost universal custom in early times, assumed their name from the village of their birth or residence, they must still have been persons of an inferior grade in life for nearly two centuries after the Conquest; for Walter Fitz-Robert, who gave the advowson of the church at Heveningham to the monks of St. Neot's, and died in 1198, was probably lord also of the place, because the patronage of the church, in part at least, was attached to Bigot's estates here, to which Fitz-Robert had succeeded.³ In 1271, the Heveninghams emerge from this uncertainty, and appear among the landed gentry of the age; for in that year the King conceded to Sir Philip de Heveningham free-warren in his manors of Heveningham, in Suffolk, and Little Totham, and Stepal, in the county of Essex.⁴ He was succeeded by Sir Roger, his son, who married Cicely, daughter of the Lord Morley, and was lord in the ninth of Edward I. Subjoined is a pedigree of this family, in which these knights are recognized, though the previous generations are subject to great doubt for the reasons already advanced.⁵ Sir Philip, who flourished in the reign of Henry III., as above shown, is probably the authentic root of this genealogical tree.

¹ Domesday, 332.

² Idem, 334. Heueniggeham and Evelincham, though widely differing in their spelling and pronunciation, signify the same village. Nothing is more loose than the orthography of Domesday Book in relation to the names of places. That record was compiled by Norman or French scholars, totally unacquainted with the Saxon language, which very frequently puzzled their continental ears. The letter *w* especially was a stumbling-block which impeded their progress whenever it occurred.—See Domesday Book passim.

³ Et quarta pars ecclæ de acra et dimidia, et val. viij. sol.

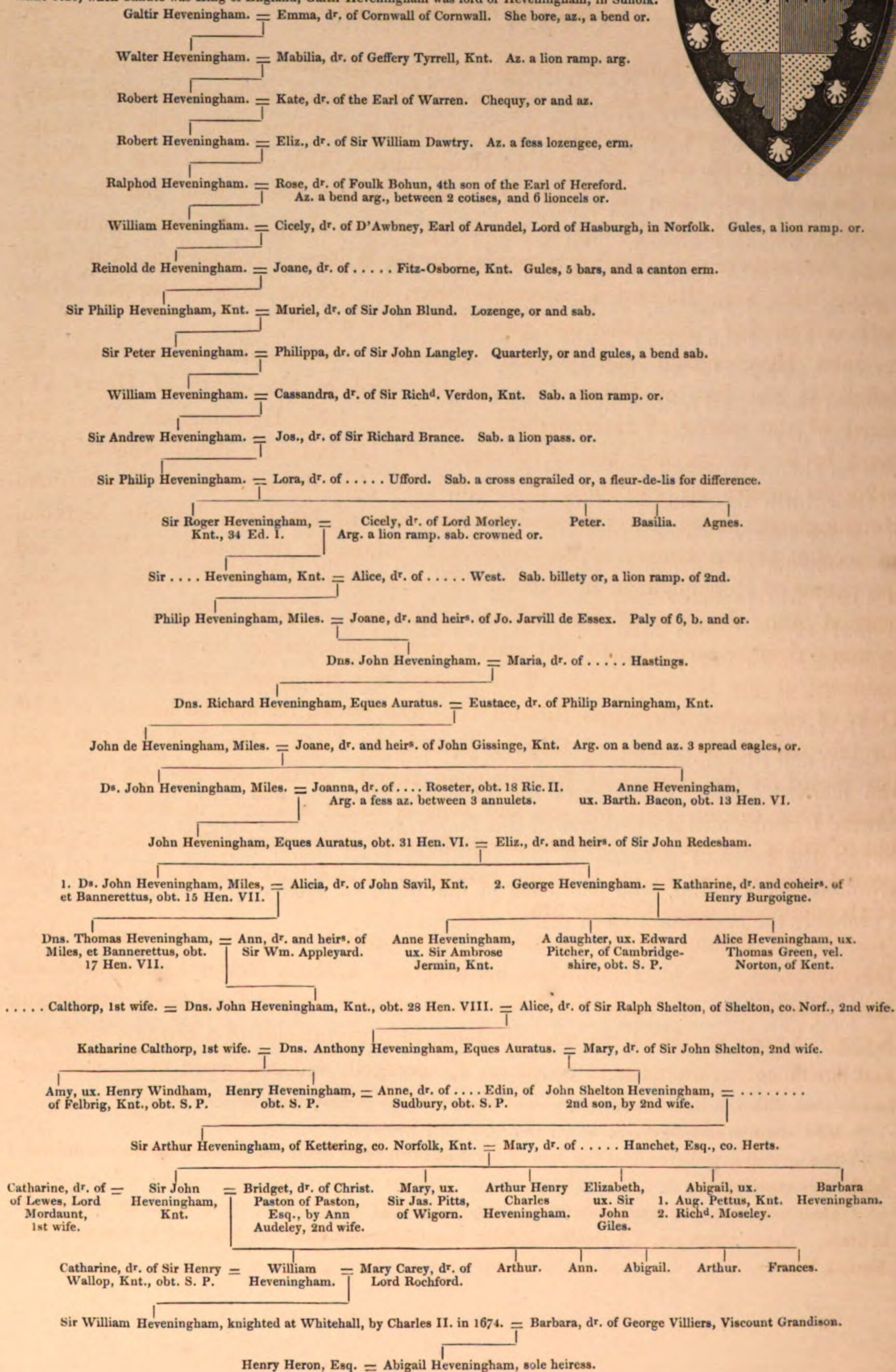
⁴ Carta 56 Hen. III. p. u. m. 1.

⁵ Genealogies of Suffolk families, MSS. pen. Sir John Blois, Bart.

Heveningham.



Anno 1020, when Canute was King of England, Galtir Heveningham was lord of Heveningham, in Suffolk.



The arms of this family are thought to be compounded of those of the Veres, Earls of Oxford, with a bordure engrailed sable, charged with nine escallop-shells arg.—as holding their lands of that family; and it is said that none of the Heveninghams used this coat before Sir John de Heveningham, Knt., son and heir of Philip; and he sealed with them in 1385.⁶ Their crest is a Saracen's head and shoulders coupéd gules: on his head a cap or, turned up ermine, charged with three guttees de sang; the origin of which bearing is ascribed to Sir William Heveningham, Knt., who, "going with King Richard I., overcame Safer, the daring Saracen, captain of the castle in Palestine. Since that they gave his head for a crest."

John Heveningham and William Argentein were knights of the shire for Suffolk in the first of Henry IV. Sir John died in the eighth of Henry VI., seized of the manor of Heveningham, when Sir John Heveningham, Knt., was found to be his son and heir of full age. By his last will, dated August 19th, 1425, he desires his executors, immediately on his decease, to render to John Heveningham, junior, his son, and to the heirs of his body, lawfully begotten, an account of the manors of Eastworne and Sutton, in the county of Essex, and the manor of Heveningham, in Suffolk. Thomas Heveningham, Esq., his grandson, married Ann, daughter of Sir William Appleyard, of Ketteringham, in Norfolk, in whose right he succeeded to that manor, which subsequently became the principal residence of the Heveninghams. This Thomas was the great favourite of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., who settled on him an annuity of £ 10, for life, out of his manor of Rothing Berners, in Essex. He died in 1499,⁷ and lies buried in the chancel of Ketteringham church, by the side of Ann his wife.⁸ John Heveningham, Esq., his son and heir, is called a knight in most evidences, but in reality was not so. Blomefield says he died in the year 1530, which is clearly proved to be an error by the following curious grant of a buck and doe out of his park at Heveningham, dated October 8th, 1533.

"To all faithful people to whome thys present writing shall come. John Hevynyngham, knyght, Dame Alice, his wife, and Anthony Hevynyngham, sone and heire apparant to the same Sir John, sends greting, in our Lord God, Everlastyng Kyng. Knowe ye, that I the seid Sir John, in performaunce of a certaine covenaut and agreement on my parte to be pformed, specyfied, and conteyned in an indenture

⁶ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁷ The preceding pedigree fixes the date of his death two years later, but many of its statements are, I think, very questionable.

⁸ Their tomb is on the south side of the altar, partly built into the wall, above which are their effigies in brass. These, which are, if I recollect rightly, beautifully enamelled, are engraved by Cotman, in his Norfolk Brasses.

made betwyn me on the oon parte, and oon Nicholus Bohun, Esquier, on the other part, bearing date this syxte day of this present monyth of Octobere, have given and graunted, and by theis prsents doo gif, and graunte to the seid Nicholus, a yerly fee of oon buk in somer, and oon doo in wynter, to be taken of my gifte within my parke at Hevynyngham, in seasonable and convenyent tymes in the yer: to have and enjoye the seid fee of oon buk, and oon doo yerly, to be taken in such tyme and place as is aforeseid to the seid Nicholus and his assyngs during his life naturall: and that it shall be lefull to the same Nicholus, at his own plesure to kille yerly, the seid buk and doo in convenyent tymes of the yer, with hys houndys, grey houndys, or long bowe. Soo always the same Nicholus be there present, in his own person, and so that the seid Nicholus do gif convenyent knowledge to the keper of the seid parke for the tyme being, of his comyng theer to hunte and kyll, as is aforeseid, or ellys the same buk and doo to be killed by the same keper, and delivered to the seid Nicholus, or his assigns at the seid park. And we the seid Dame Alice, and Anthony, and eyther of us do fully assinte and agre to thys presente graunte, and doo satisfye and confirme thastate of the seid Nicholus of and in the premises, to have and to enjoye the seid fee to hym and his assignes during his life naturall, in such wise and forme as is before expressed. In witness wherof, we, the seid Sir John, Dame Alice, and Anthony, have unto sett our seales, upon the eyght day of Octobre, in the fyve and twenty yer of the reyn of our Sovereyne Lord, King Henry the eight.

"I. HEVENYNGHAM. A. HEVENYNGHAM. By me, ANTHONY HEVENYNGHAM."⁹

Sir Anthony Heveningham, the son, whose name appears in the preceding grant, was twice married. In 1546, he and Mary, his second wife, held the manor of Heveningham, &c., in Suffolk, and those of Westbarrow Hall, of the Honour of Rayleigh, and Totham Parva, and Goldaungre, in Essex. He died in the third and fourth of Philip and Mary, when Henry Heveningham was found to be his son and heir, of the age of twenty years.¹⁰ Sir Anthony lies buried at Ketteringham. In 1570, the Lady Mary, late the wife of Philip Appleyard, and widow of this Sir Anthony, died seized of the manor of Heveningham, held by the service of one knight's fee, with remainder to Anthony Heveningham, Esq., son and heir of the aforesaid Sir Anthony.¹¹ Sir Arthur Heveningham, the son and heir of Lady Mary,—according to Blomefield, or the grandson, if the annexed pedigree be correct,—succeeded to the manor of Heveningham, with the Norfolk and Suffolk estates. He

⁹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy, from Bohun Papers.

¹⁰ Harl. MSS. 971. Blomefield, in his account of this family (tit. Ketteringham), has entirely omitted this son.

¹¹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy. This descent disagrees altogether with the foregoing pedigree and Blomefield's account. Could he have been the eldest son of the second marriage?

married Mary, daughter of Hanchet, of an ancient Hertfordshire family. He was twice Sheriff of Norfolk, and received the honour of knighthood from King James, on the 2nd of January, 1617. He died October 8th, 1630, and lies buried near his wife, in the chancel at Ketteringham. Sir John, his son and heir, who had been enfeoffed of the manor of Heveningham by his father in the year 1612,¹² was High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1615, and representative in Parliament for that county in the third of Charles I. He died on the 17th of June, 1633, and was succeeded by William Heveningham, Esq., his son by the second wife, who resided at Ketteringham and Hockwold, in Norfolk, and married, first, Catharine, daughter of Sir Henry Wallop, ancestor of the Earls of Portsmouth, by whom he had no issue; and secondly, the Right Honourable the Lady Mary Carey, daughter of John Viscount Rochford, and Earl of Dover. This William Heveningham was one of the self-appointed judges of King Charles I., though he refused to sign the warrant for his execution. At the Restoration he was tried with the other regicides, and convicted; whereupon all his manors and estates were forfeited; but being one of those nineteen who surrendered themselves upon the proclamation of the 6th of June, 1660, he was pardoned, and had his life spared.

In the year following his surrender, his wife obtained a patent from Charles II., for the restoration of most of her husband's estates, particularly that of the manor of Heveningham, and the lordship of Ketteringham. He was High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1635, and, dying in 1678, was buried in a vault under the altar in the church of the latter place. "The coffin," says Blomefield, "of this traitor, and his bones, are now wholly broken to pieces, which seems to have been done designedly, for his head, or skull, is laid upon his wife's coffin, which is very entire." Lady Mary Heveningham, his widow, survived till Sunday, the 19th of January, 1695, when she died at her house in Jermyn Street, London.¹³ Le Neve says, "Monday night, 3 Feb., I saw Lady Mary Heveningham lay in state at her house in Jermyn Street. She was, the 5th inst., carried out of town in state between twelve and one, through the city towards Ketteringham, in Norfolk. Mr. Devenish saw the procession ordered with penons, escocheons, and four banner rolls, though her husband was attainted; being one of the regicides, William Heveningham, Esq., and never restored."¹⁴ Sir William Heveningham, their son and heir, was knighted at Whitehall, by Charles II., in 1674. He married Barbara, daughter of George Villiers, Viscount Grandison, by whom he had Abigail, his sole heiress, who married Henry Heron, Esq. In the person of this lady the principal line of the family became extinct, though it lingered on for a few years in the male descent, through a junior branch. Colonel

¹² Rot. cur. de Peasenhall.—Jermyn MSS.

¹³ Le Neve's MSS.

¹⁴ Idem.

Arthur Heveningham, of Hockwold, in Norfolk, the second brother of William Heveningham the regicide, died on the 20th of February, 1657, leaving Henry Heveningham, Esq., his second son, surviving. This gentleman was born at Hockwold Hall, January 5th, 1651, and dying November 21, 1700, was interred at Heveningham, amidst the bones of his earlier ancestors. He was the last male representative of his ancient and knightly race. Mr. Heveningham represented the borough of Dunwich in the reign of William III., sitting in the two Parliaments of 1695 and 1698.

About the year 1700, the manor of Heveningham was sold by Henry Heron, Esq., to John Bence, Esq., whose son, Alexander Bence, re-sold it, in 1719, to George Dashwood, Esq., who resided here in 1735, but who, in 1745, alienated it to John Damer, Esq., by whom it was transferred, in 1752, to Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart., ancestor of Lord Huntingfield, who is the present lord.

Heveningham Hall, the seat of this nobleman, is one of the finest mansions, of modern date, in Suffolk. It was built in 1777, from designs by Sir Robert Taylor, and erected under the superintendence of James Wyatt. It presents a front of 200 feet in length, consisting of a centre and wings, of the Corinthian order. All the apartments are of noble dimensions, and adorned by an extensive and valuable collection of pictures, chiefly of the Dutch and Flemish schools of painting. The situation of the mansion is calculated to produce the finest effect, standing on an eminence, and being seen to very great advantage from various parts of the park, particularly from the opposite side of the river. The park is very extensive, and the well-wooded avenue leading to the house is of great length and uncommon beauty. The river Blythe, which takes its course eastward through the valley, forms in front of the mansion a broad lake, which adds very considerably to the effect in the view.

The old house of the Heveningham family, which had probably fallen into great dilapidation from their long residence at Ketteringham, was demolished almost immediately after the purchase of their estate by Mr. Bence, who built a mansion on the site, which, in turn, gave place to the present Heveningham Hall. Sir Joshua Vanneck, in a letter to Dr. Ducarel, dated September 19th, 1754, observes, "the old house, built by the family who gave their name to this village, has been pulled down about forty years ago; the present house being built at that time by one Squire Bence, so that nothing mentioned in the abstract remains but in the old offices, where the name of W. H. and time of building, 1653, are yet to be seen."

There appears to have been formerly a manor in this parish called Brustenhaugh, which, in the reign of Henry VIII., belonged to Cardinal Wolsey's college at Ipswich, by which society it was leased to Thomas Rushe, Esq. The indenture by which it was demised to that gentleman is an early specimen of a Suffolk lease, and shows us what covenants were customary in the early part of the sixteenth century.

“This indre, made the 10th day of September, in the xxj yere of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord King Henry the eight, between the Deane, or master of Cardinall College of our blessed ladye in Gippiswiche, in the countie of Suff. That is to say, Maister William Capon, Docter in Dyvinyte, Deane of the seid College, and the fellows of the same, on the one partie, and Thomas Rushe, esquire, on the other partye, witnessethe, that the seid dean and fellowes, by one assent, consent, wylle, and agreement, have demised, graunted, and to ferme letten, and by these presents do demise, graunte, and to ferme lette, unto the said Thomas Rush, all that theyre maner and ferme, called Brustonhaugh, sette and being in the towne of Heveningham, in the sd countie of Suff. with all the lands, medows, fedyngs, pastures, hege-rows, woods and waters, with all other comodities profurth appurt to the same maner and ferme belonging, or in any wise appurteyning; all maner tymbore wood and great wood stondyng, and growyng in and upon the sayd maner, fearme and lands, and other the premises, or any part thereof excepted, and always reserved unto the sayd deane and fellowes, and to their successors: to have, hould, occupie, and peasablie enjoye the sayd maner and ferme called Brustonhaugh, and all other the premises with th’ appurteyneth; except before excepted—to the sayd Thomas Rush, his exors, and ass. from the feast of S^t Michael th’ Archangel next comyng, after the rate herof, unto thende and term of twentie one years then next ensuyng, and fully to be complete. Yeldinge and paying therfore yerely during the sayd terme, to the sayd dean and fellowes, and to their successors, three pounds of lawful money of England at twoo termes of the yere, that is to saye, at the feast of thannunciacion of our Ladye, and S^t Michael tharchangel, by eveyn porcions. And the seyde Thomas Rushe, his exors, and ass. well and suffyciently shall make, scowre, and repayr, all hegis and dychis, in and abouth the lands of the sayd maner or ferme afore letten duryng the sayd terme. And the same at thende of the seyde terme, well and suffyciently reperyed shall leve and yelde up. And it shall be liefull to the sayde Thomas Rushe, his exors and ass. to take and have sufficient fyer boote, hege boote, cart boote and plowe boote, to occupy in and upon the sayd primes before letten duryng the sayd terme. Also the sayde Thomas Rushe shall not aleyn nor sell his estate in the seyde maner or ferme during the sayde terme withowte the speciall lycens of the said dene and fellowes, or theyre successors, fyrst opteyned. And if it happen that the sayd yerely rent of £iij to be behynd unpaid, in part, or in all, after eney of the sayd feasts, in which it owghte to be payed, by the space of one moneth, that then yt shall be lieful to the sayd dene and fellowes, and theyre successors or ass. into the seyde manir or ferme, and all other the premises with thappurts, and any parcell thereof to intre and dystayne, and the dystrenes there so taken liefully to ride, dryve, and carye awaye, and the same with theym to deteyne and witholde unto such tyme as they, of the sayd yerely rent so behynd, with the encrease of the same, yf any

be, unto them be fully satisfyed, content and payed. Fardemore, yf it happen the sayd yerely rent of £ iij to be behynd, unpaid in part, or in all, after any of the sayd feast or feasts, whiche it owght to be payed by the space of twoo moneths, that then it shall be liefull to the sayd dene and fellowes and theyre successors or ass. into the sayd maner or ferme, and all other the premises before letten with thappurts, and into every part or parcell thereof to reentre, and therof utterly to expell and amove the sayd Thomas Rushe, and all other persone or persones clamying or pretindying any title unto the premises or any part or parcell therof. And the same to have agen, hold and enjoye to theyr owen proporties, as in theyr former estate this indre or lease, or any thyng therin conteynd to the contrary not withstondying. In witness wherof to the one parte of this indenture remaynyng with the seyde Thomas Rushe, the sayd deane and fellowes of theyr consent have putte theyr commune sealle, and to the other parte of the same indentures remeyning with the seyde deane and fellowes in the seyde colledge, the seyde Thomas Rushe hath putte his sealle, the daye and yere abovesayd." ¹⁵

The manor of Thorpe Hall, in Heveningham, is mentioned in a court-leet of Sibton, held in 1394, to which lordship it appears to have been attached from a period certainly as early as 1227. ¹⁶

"Sybbeton. Curia et leta tent. die Martis in septimana Pasche, anno regni regis Richardi ij^{di} a conquestu decimo octavo.

"Inquisitio generalis ex officio presentat quod domina, mater Johannis de Heveningham, obiit sescita de terris et tenementis Thorphall, cum pertinentiis, in Hevenyngham, que tenuit de domino per servicium septem solidorum, et sex denariorum per annum. Et quod predictus Johannis Heveningham, miles, est heres ejus propinquor. qui dat domino de relievio vijs. vjd., quos preceptum est levare. Et preceptum est distringere predictum Johannem pro fidelitate domino facienda."

Again. "Sybbeton. Curia ibidem tenta die tunc proximo ante festum Sancte Barnabe, Apostoli, anno regni regis Richardi secundi, a conquestu xvij^{to}. Et preceptum est, sicut alios, distringere Johannem Hevenyngham, militem, pro vijs. vjd. de relievo a retro, ut patet in curia precedente, et pro homagio et fidelitate domino facienda, sub pena ijs."

The same entry occurs again at a court held in the 19th of Richard II., die Martij proximo post festum Sancti Michaelis. And at "Sybbeton, die Sabbati proximo post festum Sanc. Hillarij," in the same year, "preceptum est, sicut plures, distringere Johannem de Hevenyngham, militem, pro homagio, fidelitate, et relievo, vijs. et vjd., domino faciendis."

¹⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

¹⁶ Fin. Suff. 14 Hen. III. n. 13, de terris et red. in Thorpe et Heveningham, pro abb. de Sibton. 35 Hen. III. n. 99, de terris in Heveningham, pro eod.

And at a court held at "Sybeton, die Martij prox. ante fest. Sancti Luce, Evangeliste, A° R. R. Hen. sexti post conquestu iiij^{to}," the death of Sir John Heveningham was presented, as holding of the same manor.

"Et quod Johēs Hevenynham, miles, obiit seisitus de certis terris et tenementis in Hevenyngham, tentis de domino, die quo obiit, per homagium et fidelitatem, et per servicium xxxjs. et vjd. redditus per annum, et quod Johannes, filius ejus est heres ejus inde propinquior. et plene etatis, et dat domino de relevio, ut in capite, &c."¹⁷

This tenure of the Abbot is also recognized in the following mandate, dated anno xvii. Edw. II.

"R. magro Johi Walewayn, esc. ult 'Trent' saltm, quia accipim^s p. inquisicoem qd Alicia, q. fuit ux. Rogi de Evenyngham, def. tenuit in dotem tciam ptem manij de Pva Totham cum ptin. de Johē fil. et hede. Phi. de Evenyngham infra etatem, &c. p. svicium militare, et qd. non tenuit de nob. &c. set. qd. tenuit de Priore de Hatfield Peverell quadraginta acras tre. et redditus cum ptin. in Pva Totham et Goldhangre p. svicium undecim solidor. p. ann. p. omi svicio, et de abbe de Coggeshall quatuor acr. cum ptin. in eadem villa, p. svicium novem solidor. et unius quadr. p. ann. et de Johe de Palmere quatuor acr. tre. cum ptin. in eadem villa p. svicium p. ann. de Robto de Upton sex acr. tre. et duas acr. prati cum ptin. in Hevenyngham p. svicium trium solidor. p. ann. et de Willo le Parker cert. acr. tre. cum ptin. p. svicium trium solidor. p. ann. et de Abbe de Sibeton septem acr. tre. unam acr. bosci et medietatem unius acr. prati cum ptin. in eadem villa p. svicium septem solidor. et sex denar. p. ann. vob. mand. qd. retenta, &c."¹⁸

In the thirty-seventh of Edward III., record is made of a knight's fee, which Mary, the widow of Thomas, late Earl of Norfolk, held in dower; and the King assigned to William de Ufford, and Joan his wife, inter alia, three fees and a half in Zokesford, Hevenyngham, Stokeslond and Burgh, which William de Swillington and Edward de Ufford held.¹⁹ Also half a fee in Heveningham, which Cecilia de Heford holds.²⁰

In the year 1400, Robert Garneys, of Heveningham, married Catharine, daughter and heiress of John Blanchard. Blanchard bears, gules, a chev. between 2 bezants in chief, and a griffin's head erased, in base, or.

From the Harleian MSS. it appears that the families of Southwell and Talmache held lands in Heveningham in the reign of Elizabeth, and that Thomas Gawdye, Esq., held the same in the sixth of Edward VI., of the King, in capite, with license of alienation to the said John Southwell.²¹

¹⁷ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

¹⁹ Harl. MSS. 5193, fol. 67.

¹⁸ Rot. Scac. de an. xvii. Ed. II. Rot. 1.

²⁰ Idem.

²¹ Harl. MSS. 1232.

On the 1st of October, in the sixth of James I., an indenture was made between John Scryvener, of Ipswich, in Suffolk, Gent., on the one part, and Thomas Jacob, of Creeting All Saints, of the said county, yeoman, on the other part, which witnessed, that the said Scryvener, in consideration of £ 2000, bargained and sold to the said Jacob, all those messuages, lands, &c., being freehold, situated in Heveningham and Ubbeston, als Upston, which late were Rauffe Scryvener, Gent., deceased, father of the said John, and which were conveyed by one William Dowsinge, als Smythe, late of Shaddingfield, county of Suffolk, yeoman, deceased, unto Humfrey Wingfield, late of Brantham, in the said county, Esq., deceased, Robert Bardwell, late of Southold, in the said county, marchaunt, and Godfrey Bradlaughe, alias Jacob, of Ubbeston, in the said county, yeoman, and so to their heirs, by indre, dated 21 July, 15 Eliz., to certain uses, *i. e.* to the use of the said William Dowsinge for life, and after, to the use of Raffe Scryvener, and Mary his wife, and their heirs; and for default, to the heirs of the said Mary; and for default, to the use of the right heirs of the said William, for ever; and other lands, &c., to the use of the said Thomas, his heirs, &c., for ever.²²

In an old list of knights' fees in Suffolk, is the following entry: Johē Hevenynghm, Chr. ten. in Hevenynghm, di. f. mil. de pct Johē Graā et de dcta feod. et di. iij s. viij d.

THE CHURCH

of Heveningham is dedicated to St. Margaret, and crowns a rising knoll between the rectory and the village. It bears no traces of the structure existing at the period of the Norman Survey, which was probably demolished during the reign of Edward I., to make way for the present fabric, the chancel of which retains features characteristic of that era. It now comprises a nave, divided from a south aisle of very narrow proportions by an arcade of pointed arches resting on octangular shafts, finished with plain moulded capitals; a square tower, and a chancel. The south side of the nave presents a series of wide clerestory windows, in the late perpendicular style, by no means corresponding with the elegant roof of oak, which is the glory of this fabric, and a memorial of the taste and piety of the Heveninghams, to whose munificence it may doubtless be ascribed. It is one of those open roofs of timber, almost peculiar to East Anglia, which exhibit at once a boldness of construction, a thorough knowledge of mechanical principles, and an extreme delicacy of finish. At Heveningham the principals are sustained by hammer beams, on which rise an upper series supporting struts, the braces of which are received by collars very near the ridge. How effective would be the interior of this church—kept as it is in the most reputable condition—were its ugly

²² Int. Evid. Epi. Sarum. 1813.—MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

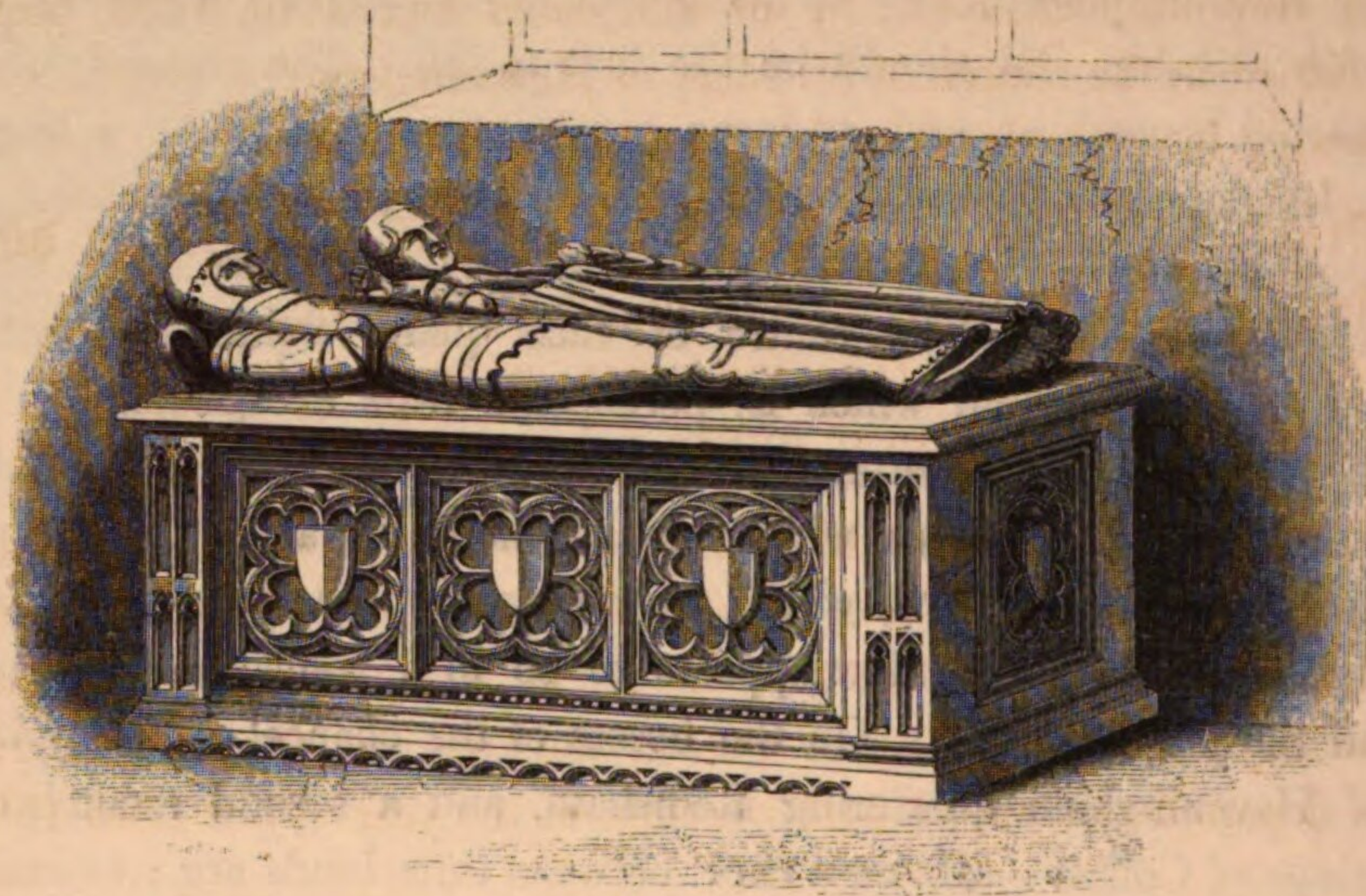
pews and gallery swept away, and open benches of oak substituted in their places. The old manorial pew, carved in the style fashionable in the days of our first James, is especially ugly and misplaced, and by its preposterous height completely defeats the object of *public* worship. It should be the first to fall. The chancel, which is very elegant, is entered beneath an arch of mean construction, flanked by a hagioscope on either side. Its floor was formerly one step lower than that of the nave. The north and south windows are filled with very graceful tracery, and have been newly glazed at a considerable expense. The centre of each quarry exhibits a trefoil slip in coloured glass, upon a ground which is, perhaps, a little exceptionable. The semi-opaque effect would have been better produced by an imitation of that subdued white, relieved by a slight diapered pattern, which was in general use about the period when the windows were constructed, and of which, specimens are occasionally met with in our country churches. The east window appears to be in a transition style between the decorated and the perpendicular. On the bosses of the chancel roof may be observed the arms of Heveningham quartering Redisham, and a second escutcheon charged with the bearings of Collett—sab. on a chev. between three hinds arg.; as many annulets of the first, quartering, arg. a cross sable, with a crescent in the first quarter, gules; and arg. a cross gules. It is rather remarkable that the centre of this chancel is not parallel with that of the body of the church. There is an octangular font of stone in good condition, but not of very elegant design, in the nave, and an open niche near the chancel arch, profusely coloured with ancient painting. The tower contains five bells, thus inscribed:

1. Thomas Osborn, fecit, 1797. Percute, dulce cano.
2. Thomas Osborn, Downham, fecit, 1797.
3. Thomas Osborn, fecit, 1797. Cum voco, venite.
4. Thomas Osborn, fecit, 1797.
5. Thomas Osborn, fecit, 1797. Long live King George the Third.

A chantry chapel, or oratory, occupied a portion of the north side of the nave till within a few months past, in which were interred many of the Heveningham family.²³ The subjoined illustration represents an altar-tomb of oak, which was removed when the chapel was demolished. The slab of the tomb was of stone, on the bevelled edge of which was a circumscription long since reaved, as were most of the escutcheons of arms in its panels. On the third shield was the coat of Heveningham, quartered with, fusilly gules and or. At the head appeared Heveningham quartering, . . . on a bend az.

²³ A vestry was built on the north side of the chancel, in the year 1847, out of the materials of this chantry.

cotised or, 3 eagles displayed of the last; and at the feet, Heveningham quartering Redisham.



It was probably the tomb of Sir John Heveningham, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir John Redisham, and died in 1452, or the following year. The effigy of the lady has disappeared, together with the entire tomb, but the figure of the knight remains in the tower of the church, consigned to neglect and decay. It is hollowed, and was, probably, filled with wood ashes for the purpose of absorbing the damp, and preserving the brilliancy of the colours with which it was originally painted.²⁴ The figure is, however, notwithstanding this precaution, cracked through the entire length of the body, and scarcely a tint remains, except under the right arm, where a portion of black may be seen, which formed the sable bordure of the knight's coat-armour. The two figures of oak are noticed by Weever,²⁵ who mentions a third effigy of a female, which he says was curiously painted and gilt. There was formerly, also, in this chapel, the following inscription on a tomb:

. . . . Heveningham, miles, et Margareta ux. eius.²⁶

This must have escaped the vigilance of Dowsing, who records his purgations at Heveningham thus:

“Heveningham, April the 9th and 10th.—Eight superstitious pictures, one of the

²⁴ In Blomefield's account of Fersfield church (History of Norfolk), he mentions the tombs of William du Bois, priest, and Sir Robert du Bois, Knt., the effigies of whom were discovered to be “full of burnt coals.”

²⁵ Funeral Monuments.

²⁶ MSS. Sir J. Blois.

Virgin Mary ; and 2 inscriptions of brass, one, *pray for the soul*, and another, *orate pro animabus.*"

Sir John Heveningham, Knt., by his will, dated Aug. 19th, 1425, bequeathed his body to be buried in the church of St. Mary of Heveningham.²⁷

The following inscriptions are still to be seen in this church :

**Orate. p. anima magist. Rogeri marball, q. obiit x^o die
Augusti, A^o Dni. M. V. XI. cui aie ppiciet de.
Non me demergat tepestas aque, neque absorbeat me
Profudu, neque urgeat super me puteus os suum.**

On a marble slab : "In this vault are deposited the bodyes of that learned, pious, and faithful Minister of the Gospel, Samuel Fairclough, and Frances, his most vertus, and beloved wife. He was the son of Samuel Fairclough, that late eminent and pious pastor of Kedington, in the county of Suffolk, and true heir of his ministerial gifts and graces. He departed this life ye 31st Decemb. in the year of our Lord 1691, aged 66 years."

Reader, look hence, under yon marble rest
The best of preachers, and his wife, the best
Of woemen ; there do their deare ashes lye ;
Their dearer souls are mounted 'bove the sky
On Thrones of Glory, but they'll ere long returne,
And reasume those ashes from that urne.
Do prophets live for ever ? can the best
Of Heaven's ambassadors from death's arrest
Pretend a franchise too ? Behold this shrine !
See here a prophet, and compleat divine,
On whom the thankles world too late will know,
And by his absence find him to be so.
When prophets dy, the worst of ills we fear,
When envoys are recall'd, sune war is near.
Our only refuge is, He still doth live,
Who did both prophets and apostles give.

Fairclough's arms are : or, a lion ramp. sab. armed and langued gules, impaling, vert, a fleur-de-lis argent, for Fowke. Mr. Fairclough left an annual donation of 20 shillings to the Rector of Heveningham, on condition that his bones, which are buried in the chancel, be not disturbed. His bequest is couched in the following terms :

Item, I do give my house and land, lying at Ketton, alias Kedington, in the county of Suffolk, now in the tenure of Mr. Charles Derby, rector of the church of the aforesaid, unto the said Charles Derby,

²⁷ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

and his successors for ever, upon trust, and confidence, and with these limitations, that the said Charles Derby, and his successors shall pay, or cause to be paid the sum of 20s. per ann. to the rector of Heveningham, and his successors for the time being, as an annual rent for the vault I have made in the chancel of the church in the said town, for myself, and my dear wife; and my will is, that if the said vault or grave, wherein is my wife interred, shall at any time after my interment be broken open, or our bones be disturbed, from thence forward the said annual rent shall cease; but in case the said vault or grave shall not be opened at any time hereafter, then my will is, that the said rector of Heveningham and his successors shall receive upon demand, from the rector of Kedington, the said annual rent of 20s.; and in case it shall be denied, or not paid upon demand, my will is that the said rector of Heveningham, or his successors, may enter upon and distrain the rents and profits of the said house and lands, and possess the same, until all arrears of the said annual rent be fully received and discharged.

Richard Hood, A. M., Rector of Heveningham, died Feb. 23, 1735, in the 60th year of his age.²⁸ Samuel Batho, Rector, died Feb. 1, 1768, in the 88th year of his age. John Bence, Esq., died 18th of Oct. 1718, aged 48 years. Katharine, the wife of John Bence, of Heveningham, Esq., and daughter of Sir Sackville Glemham, of Glemham, in this county, died March 1st, 1715. Anthony Collett, A.M., thirty-four years Rector of this parish, died 18th of Feb. 1838, in the 68th year of his age. Samuel Burrough, clk., Rector of Holton, died Sept. 28, 1775, aged 56 years. Samuel Burrough, clk., Rector of this parish, son of the above-named, died March 1, 1803, aged 54 years. Caroline, his wife, died at the Rookery, Dedham, Essex, July 7th, 1832, aged 86 years. William Collett, youngest son of Anthony Collett and Anne Rachael, his wife, died Nov. 24th, 1821, in the 10th year of his age.

RECTORS OF HEVENINGHAM.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
William de Bosco Reynold	1314	Prior and Convent of St. Neot's.
Joes de Temesford	1329	Id.
John de Leverington	1348	Rex, racone temp. S. Neoti alien.
Simon de Dukyngham	1349	Id.
Gerardus Richer	1349	Id.
Walter de Donewico	1351	Id.
Sylva Attyates	1354	Id.
Joes Trendell	1355	Id.
Robert de Bury	1355	Id.
William de Harewell	1356	Id.
William de Huntelow	1359	Id.
Joes Vergen	1359	Id.

²⁸ He was drowned at Boys' Street, on his return home after dining at Sibton Abbey.—MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Henry de Lydington	1360	Rex, racone temp. S. Neoti alien.
Joes Wyles, de Grasthorpe, Ebor. Dios.	1383	Id.
Joes Leef	1384	Id.
William Fesaunt ²⁹	1384	Id. racone temp. Prior. de Okeburn.
Edm. de Byngham	1385	Id.
Joes Culspou, or Culpho	1387	Id.
Joes Fermer	1393	Id. racone temp. S. Neoti alien.
Joes Blakenham	1394	Id. racone Prior. S. Neoti.
Joes Boston	1408	Prior and Conv. of St. Neot's.
Joes Helwell	1414	Id.
Joes Smith		
Richard Gille	1416	Id.
Radulp. Pulvertoft	1457	Id.
Stephen Hykkys	1465	Bishop, by lapse.
Richard Warde	1477	Prior and Conv. of St. Neot's.
William Aythorp	1482	Id.
Roger Merpull or Marvall	1486	Id.
Henry Holland	1511	Id.
Gabr. Cornwell	1566	The Crown.
Esaias Yarner	1583	Id.
Joes Argall	1590	Id.
Joes Barne	1593	Id.
Abraham Eachard		
Ed. Porter	1627	Id.
George Jones	1670	Id.
Richard Hood	1704	Id.
John Mingay	1735	Id.
Samuel Batho	1738	Id.
Richard Woodeson	1768	Id.
Samuel Burrough, jun.	1774	Id.
„ 2nd time	1792	Id.
Anthony Collett	1803	Id.
Henry Owen	1838	The Queen.

Prior S. Neoti est patronus illius. Rector habet mansum pertinens eccliae, cum xij acris terrae. Estimatio ejusdem præter portionem, xvij marc. Portio Prioris S. Neoti, in eadem xx^s. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis xij^d., et pro paschale termino xij^d. Denarii S. Petri xij^d.—Norwich Domesday.

The baptismal registers commence in 1550.

The total contents of the parish amount to 1659 acres, 3 roods, 9 perches: the glebes comprise 39 acres, 1 rood, 16 perches, a portion of which lies in the adjacent

²⁹ Exchanged from the rectory of Caistor, Norfolk.

parish of Ubbeston. The tithes have been commuted at £480 per annum, exclusive of the charge upon the glebes. The population, in 1841, was 417.

Charities.—The town property of Heveningham is very valuable, and has been enjoyed, for the most part, from an early period. An estate in Badingham, held of the manor of Colston Hall, now produces a rental exceeding one hundred pounds per annum. In the old writings belonging to the parish it is said, “*Inhabitantes ville de Heveningham ten. iij. tent. lib. voc. Adams, Gyles, et Dukes, et divers crofts. pec. terr. &c., in Badingham, cont. insimil. xl. ac. Tent. etiam toft quond. tenti Colstons. lib. Feoff. de Heveningham tent. nat. v. acr. terr. in Badingham, prd. supvisio mni de Colston Hall, A° 2 Car. I.*” In the 14th of Charles II., 1662, John Jacob, de Ubbeston, Laurentius Ellis, de Heveningham, and John Baker, de Wickham Market, jun., Gentlemen, were admitted to the above estates in Badingham, to which William Heveningham, since attainted for high treason, together with Robert Mowlinge and Robert Payne, deceased, had been admitted at a court held Nov. 2nd, in the 11th of James I. From these writings it appears that the feoffees shall apply the rents and profits, arising from the estates in question, for the payment of all objects of utility in the parish of Heveningham, for the discharging the fifteenths, levied by the King, for the repair of the highways, and for the relief and assistance of the poor inhabitants of the place: “*opera et negotia p. coi utilitate ville de Heveningham, maximè necessaria, et opportun. ut p. supportacoe et exoneracoe quindecimar. Regis; reparacoibz et emendacoibz coiar. viar.; relevio et auxilio pauperum in pdca villa de Heveningham inhabitant.*”

In 1710, 9th of Anne, Henry Applethwaite, of Sibton, Gent.; Leonard Pierson, de Heveningham, casearius, and James Bemond, de Wrentham, appear as trustees; and on the 5th of May, 1742, Samuel Dashwood, of Heveningham, Esq., and others, were admitted to the Badingham lands, &c.

In 1622, mention is made of the town-house in Heveningham, conveyed by feoffment to John Heveningham and others. This town-house, now comprising five tenements, produces a rental of above £10 per annum. A piece of land is also charged with an annual payment of three shillings for the purpose of providing ropes for the church bells.

HINTON.

HINTON probably signifies the old place of residence. It seems to have been attached to the parish of Blythborough from the earliest period of our national records, and, following the fortunes of that village, and its religious establishment, is still united with it as one of its hamlets.

Ægelward, a free Saxon, held Hinetun for a manor, in the Confessor's reign. At the Norman Survey, Robert de Blideburh farmed, under Roger Bigot, fifty acres of land here, with two bordars. We may conclude it to have been an open, heathy district, for this proprietor kept only four swine, while his flock of sheep amounted to fifty. Its value was eight shillings. Of this land, Robert de Blideburh held twelve acres, of the gift of the King, as of the church of Blideburh. Six free-men were added to the manor, whom the predecessor of Bigot had under his protection. These men had also fifty acres of land, and one of meadow, valued at four shillings.¹ It does not appear when, and by whom, the manor of Hinton Hall was bestowed upon the priory of Blythborough, though the gift was probably antecedent to the year 1199; and its donor was, possibly, William, or Walter de Shaddingfield; because, at the suppression of religious houses, we find, amongst the possessions of Blythborough priory,² the manor of Hyntonhall valued together with the advowson of Thorington, which advowson was certainly granted to that house by the persons in question, as is shown by the recitation of King Richard's charter.³ Its value at the suppression, united with the church of Thorington, was £ 11. 13s. 4d. per annum.

By indre, bearing date Oct. 4th, 28th of Henry VIII., Hinton Hall, and the parsonage of Thorington, were conveyed to Richard Freiston, for a term of 99 years;⁴ but by letters patent of the 12th of November, 1538, two years later, these premises were granted by the Crown to Sir Arthur Hopton, Knt. Hinton Hall passed, inter alia, from Sir Arthur's successors, to the family of Blois, and is now the property of Sir Charles Blois, Bart., of Cockfield Hall, in Yoxford. The lordship is styled the manor of Hinton, late priory, and extends into the parishes of Thorington, Bramfield, Darsham, Westleton, and Yoxford. Its customs are one-third dower to the widow, and one-third for timber. The quit-rents of the manor of Hinton Priory amounted, in 1758, to £ 5. 18s. 8d.

Holton.

HOLTON signifies the village in the wood; and it was probably a part of the vast forest, which appears from Domesday Book to have stretched around Halesworth and its vicinity. In Saxon times, Edric held a small manor here, which embraced only

¹ Domesday, fol. 331.

² Page 147.

³ Page 146.

⁴ MSS. Jermyn and Davy, ex Index of Enrolments in Exchequer.

twenty acres of land, valued at three shillings and four pence, and which Robert Malet held in demesne at the time of the Norman Survey.¹ There were then also three other small estates here, two of which belonged to Roger Bigot, and were farmed under him by Godric Dapifer,² and Robert de Curcunde, valued respectively at four shillings and twelve shillings.³ The third was the property of Godric Dapifer, valued at five shillings, and comprised thirty acres of land and half an acre of meadow, rented by three free-men, Ulmar, Ailmar, and Odulf.⁴ Six free-men also held twenty-six acres of land under this Godric, valued at ten shillings. Alan, Earl of Richmond, held the soc over all the land in 'Holetun,' except over the property of Osbert, who is not elsewhere mentioned. None of these estates are recorded as manors; and although Robert de Reyndon had a charter of free-warren in Holetun, in the 42nd of Henry III.,⁵ and Petronilla, relict of Sir William de Nerford, and daughter and coheiress of Sir John de Vallibus, is said to have held the manor of Holton in the 9th of Edward I.,⁶ it is extremely doubtful if any lordship has existed in this parish since the Norman Conquest. There is no manor of Holton, so called, at the present day, nor any, the site of which is in the village, but the lands here hold for the following parishes, Blythford, Blythborough, late priory, Halesworth, Dame Margery's, Halesworth Rectory, Wisset, and Le Roos, Rumburgh, Sibton with the members, and Mells.⁷ Richard Payn, John Hog, and Agnes his wife, are recorded as householders in Holton, in the reign of Edward I.

Eodem modo mon. R. Ricus Payn, de Holton, qd cum ipse in cur. R. apud Ebor. recuperasset seis. suam vsus Johem Hog, de Holton, et Agn. uxem ejus de uno mes. cum ptin. in Holton p. consideracoem ejusdem cur. &c.⁸

THE CHURCH.

Though no sacred edifice is mentioned in Domesday as belonging to Holton, the present structure must have been raised at a period not many years subsequent to the compilation of that record; for the south door of the nave bespeaks a Norman origin. Over the centre of this portal is carved an animal in a couchant posture, of rude sculpture, and thickly encrusted with lime-wash.

In the reign of William Rufus, Alan, Earl of Richmond, who held the soc over nearly the whole parish, gave the advowson of Holton to the church of St. Mary, at York, by which establishment it must have been early transferred to their cell at Rumburgh; for we find the prior of the latter house in possession of its appropriation

¹ Domesday, 314.

² Idem, 331 b.

³ Idem, 333 b.

⁴ Idem, 355 b.

⁵ Cart. 42 Hen. III. p. u. m. 1.

⁶ Mag. Brit.

⁷ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁸ Rot. Scac. de an. Edw. I. vicesimo nono. Rot. 21.

when the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* was made by the order of Pope Nicholas the 4th, in 1291. At the dissolution of monasteries by Henry VIII., the advowson of Holton not having been granted out, it has remained ever since a rectory, in the gift of the Crown.

The present edifice, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is an humble fabric, exhibiting specimens of various styles, from the Norman era to the period of Henry VIII. It comprises a nave and chancel, with a south aisle attached to the former, of a late perpendicular character, and of brick-work. There is a circular tower, lighted with round-headed windows, which contains three bells. In the interior we observe an excellent font of stone, having the eight panels of its sides filled with shields and rosettes. At the angle of the chancel arch is an unclosed niche, from which the image it contained was probably hurled by Dowsing, who tells us that he found at "Holton by Halesworth, Aug. the 29th, two superstitious pictures in the church, and I * H * S. the Jesuits' badge, in the chancel window; promised (to be demolished, we suppose,) by the minister, Mr. Wm. Pell." Whether Mr. Pell executed the directions of Dowsing cannot be said: he left, at all events, a few fragments of painted glass, which yet remain. In a south window are the arms of Micklefield, an ancient family, which formerly flourished in the adjacent village of Blythford, viz.—arg. on a cross engrailed sab. guttee d'or; and a second shield, on which may be traced three chevronels, and a label of three points, from which bearing the colours are faded in a very remarkable degree. In a north window is a badge or rebus, of a cross-bow, on the stock of which is placed a cross saltire. Both nave and chancel are covered with a good plain roof of oak timber.

Monuments.—Charlotte Smith, died Jan. 4th, 1801. Nathaniel Hudson, Rector 34 years, died Nov. 10, 1737. Mary Freeman, eldest daughter of John Freeman, Gent., and Mary his wife, born at Darsham, Sept. 27, 1712, died at Catton, in Norfolk, Aug. 1st, 1782, aged 69.

The parish registers commence in 1539.

RECTORS OF HOLTON.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Davyson	1574	The Crown.
John Argall	1585	Id.
John Tilney	1589	Id.
Ignatius Holderness	1600	Id.
John Ferrer	1601	Id.
George King	1607	Id.
Thomas Barker	1620	Id.
William Brown	1661	Id.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
John Mayhew	1687	The Crown.
Samuel Burgess	1693	Id.
Nathaniel Hudson	1704	Id.
John Welles	1737	Id.
The same	1747	Id.
Samuel Burrough	1758	Id.
Thomas Forster	1776	Id.
Samuel Hingeston	1786	Id.
Samuel Newland Evans	1807	Id.
William Taylor Worship	1836	Id.
John Collett Reynolds	1845	Id.

Prior de Rumburgh habet eam in proprios usus: habet mansum cum x acris terræ. Estimatur ad xvj marc. Procuratio vj^s. viij^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis vj^d., et pro termino Paschæ vj^d. Denarii S. Petri v^d. ob.—Norwich Domesday.

Charities.—The parish possesses two houses and a garden containing 27 rods of land, inhabited by two poor families. The rents are appropriated to the reparation of the church. Holton is also entitled to an annuity of ten shillings left by Matthew Walter, of Blythford, in 1589.

The gross amount of land in Holton is 1129 acres, 3 roods, 5 perches. The glebes comprise 3 acres, 3 roods, 33 perches, and the tithes have been commuted at £ 310 per annum. The benefice has been once augmented by £ 200.

Huntingfield.

THE derivation of this name is obvious. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Edric of Laxfield was owner of Huntingfeld, of which he was deprived at the Conquest, when it was given to Robert Malet, Lord of the Honour of Eye, whose under-tenant, at the time of the Norman Survey, was Walter, the son of Albricus. In the Saxon era its value had been £ 8, which had fallen to £ 7; and its woods, which in the former period had been sufficient to fatten 150 swine, were then capable of feeding 100 only. At the Survey, Huntingfeld had a church endowed with 14 acres of glebe, valued at two shillings.¹ Roger, who held this estate in the reign of Henry I., and was probably the son of this Walter Albricus, assumed the surname of Huntingfeld in conformity with the custom of the successful Normans, and left a son, William de Huntingfeld, who in

¹ Domesday, f. 311.

the reign of King Stephen, with the consent of Roger, his son and heir, gave the whole isle of Medenham, or Mendham, in Suffolk, with divers other lands, to the monks of Castle-Acre in Norfolk. He died in 1155, 1st of Henry II., and was succeeded by Roger de Huntingfeld, who had issue William; who, in the 5th of King John, being made Constable of Dover Castle, took an oath in the King's presence at Falaise, that he would faithfully perform his trust in the safe custody thereof, and that it should not be given up to any person whatsoever, except to the King himself, or Hubert de Burgh, then Lord Chamberlain,² and for security, delivered his son and daughter as hostages—his son to remain in the hands of the Earl of Arundel, and his daughter with the Earl Ferrers. In the 8th of the same reign he paid a fine of two hundred marks, and two palfreys, for the wardship of the land and heir of Osbert Fitz-Hervei, and for the marriage of him,³ and in the following year obtained a grant of all the possessions of Roger de Huntingfeld, his brother, which had been seized into the King's hands, by reason of the interdict.⁴ In the 10th of John, this William de Huntingfeld was appointed one of the Justices Itinerant, at Lincoln; and in the 11th of this monarch's reign executed the office of Sheriff for the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, for the fourth part of that year, and afterwards till the end of the 15th year, in which he gave the King six fair Norway goshawks for license to marry Alice, his daughter, then a widow, and to have an assignation of her dowry out of the lands of Richard de Solers, her late husband, in Facumb and Langley, and also out of his lands in Bondevi, in Lincolnshire.⁵ In the 15th of King John, he also held the office of Accountant, with Alberic de Vere, Earl of Oxford, for the Customs of Norfolk and Suffolk. In the 17th of the same reign he was made Governor of Sauvey Castle,⁶ but taking part with the rebellious barons of that time, by whom he was appointed one of the twenty-five chief persons for governing the realm, and in consequence underwent the sentence of excommunication by the Pope,⁷ his estates in Lincolnshire were seized by the Crown, and given to Nicholas de Haya, to hold during the King's pleasure. But before the end of that year he appears to have returned to his obedience, for the King directed his precept to the Sheriff of Hampshire to make restitution to him of the manor of Claford, in that county, of which he had been dispossessed by reason of his rebellion.⁸ His daughter, Alice, and her second husband, seem to have joined him in his defection, for a like precept was directed in the same year to restore her dower in Facumb and

² Willius de Huntingfeld pro custodia Castri de Devorr dedit regi obsides, et sacramentum suum præstitit de salvo custod. apud Faleys, 16 Sep. Rot. Pat. Johan. de an. 5, m. 6.

³ Rot. Pip. 8 Johan.

⁴ Idem, 9 Johan. m. 3.

⁵ Idem.

⁶ Rot. Pat. 17 Johan. m. 8.

⁷ Mat. Paris.

⁸ Claus. 17 Johan. Rex Vic. Suhamt. salt. Peipim. ti. qd. hre facias Willo de Huntingfeld saisina de manio de Claford, unde dissaisit. fuit occone gwerre orte (inter) nos et Baron. nros. T. ut sup.

Langley, forfeited by a similar offence.⁹ Notwithstanding this remission, William de Huntingfeld again fell from his allegiance; for in the first of Henry III., all his lands in Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and elsewhere, were given by the King to John Mareschall, except those in Lincolnshire, of which Nicholas de Haya had a former grant. His reconciliation with the King is not recorded, but in the 3rd of Henry III. he obtained a license to go to the Holy Land, whereupon he appointed his brother Thomas his attorney, to transact all business in his absence.¹⁰ William de Huntingfeld gave to the monks of Hertford, for the health of his soul, and the soul of Alice de St. Liz, his wife, a certain pasture adjoining to their alder-grove, and left issue Roger de Huntingfeld, his son and heir, who seems to have possessed little of his ancestor's military spirit; for in the 39th of Henry III. it was represented to the King that Roger de Huntingfeld had sent to his assistance, in Gascony, Andrew de Gayzi, his knight, who had performed laudable service; and the Sheriff of the county had an order, that the demand of sixty marks, due from him to the Crown, should be excused. In the 26th of Henry III., he gave two hundred marks, fine, to the King, to be exempted from the expedition then made into Gascony.¹¹ In the 37th of Henry III., he obtained free-warren for all his demesne lands,¹² and died in the 41st of the same reign, leaving Joan, his wife, one of the daughters and coheiresses of William de Hobrigg, surviving, and William, his son and heir, a minor; for whose wardship his mother gave an hundred marks to the King. William de Huntingfeld, however, must have been nearly of full age at his father's decease, for in the following year he received commandment to fit himself with horse and arms, and to attend the King at Chester, on Monday preceding the feast of St. John Baptist, to restrain the hostilities of the Welsh. In the 49th of Henry III., he took part with the rebellious barons, and was present with them at the battle of Evesham.¹³ In the 7th of Edward I., he covenanted that Roger, his son and heir, should marry Joyce, the daughter of John de Engaine.¹⁴ He died in the eleventh of Edward I., and was succeeded by Roger, his son and heir, who, on the 8th of June, in the 22nd of Edward I., amongst other eminent persons, had summons to attend the King with all speed to advise upon the great affairs of the realm; and soon after received command to be at Portsmouth upon the 1st of September, then next ensuing, well fitted with horse and arms, to sail into Gascony. Upon the death of Joan, his mother, in 1296, he was thirty years of age, and in the same year had summons to

⁹ Rex, &c. *Pcipim. ti. qd. hre facias Hugoi Ruffo, et Alie ux. eius, filie Willi de Huntingfeld, saisina de dote ipius Alie in Facumb. et Langel, un. dissaisiti funt. occoe gwerre orte int. nos et Barones nros. T. ut sup.*

¹⁰ Claus. 3 Hen. III. m. 7.

¹¹ Rot. Pip. 26 Hen. III.

¹² Cart. 37 Hen. III. m. 11.

¹³ Esch. 49 Hen. III. m. 3.

¹⁴ Claus. 8 Ed. I. in dorso. m. 4.

Parliament amongst the barons of the realm, but does not appear to have been afterwards called to that assembly. He died in 1301, seized of the manors of Bekesworth, in Cambridgeshire, Bradenham, in Norfolk, Sculthorp, Toft and Frampton, in Lincolnshire, Wokelington, in Essex, and Huntingfield, in Suffolk; the latter being held of the King, in capite, as of the Honour of Eye, by the service of one knight's fee, and the fourth part of a fee.¹⁵ He was "one of those noble peers that sent Pope Boniface word that the kingdom of Scotland was not of his fee, and that he had no jurisdiction in temporal affairs over either of the kingdoms, which was subscribed at the Parliament held at Lincoln."¹⁶ William de Huntingfield, his son and heir, was twenty years of age at his father's death, and doing homage in the 31st of Edward I., had livery of his lands,¹⁷ and in the 34th of the same King was in the wars of Scotland,¹⁸ as he was in the 4th of the following reign. He died in the 7th of Edward II., and in the following year it was returned that he held the manor of Huntingfield of the King, in capite, as of the Honour of Eye, by the service of six knights' fees, and eight shillings and four pence for castle-ward of the castle of Eye.¹⁹ He was also found seized of the manor of Mendham, in Suffolk, and the manor of Bekesworth, in Kent, with the advowson of the church there, together with divers lordships and lands in other counties. He left Roger de Huntingfield, his son and heir, and Sibill his widow, who shortly afterwards married William de Latimer. In the 13th of Edward II., Walter de Norwich, a Baron of the Exchequer, owed £ 18 for the farm of the custody of the third part of the manor of Huntingfield, late belonging to William de Huntingfield, which Sibilla, his widow, held in dower; after whose death it was in the King's hands by the minority of Roger, his son and heir. Roger de Huntingfield married Cecilia, daughter to Sir Walter de Norwich, and died in the eleventh of Edward III., leaving issue by her, William de Huntingfield, his son and heir, aged seven years and a half, being then seized, inter alia, of the manors of Huntingfield, Benges, and Horham, in Suffolk. This William making proof of his age in the 25th of Edward III.,²⁰ and doing fealty, had livery of his lands, and in the 33rd of Edward III. was in the French wars, being then a knight. In the following year he was also there, in the retinue of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, and having been summoned to Parliament from the 15th of November, 1351, to the 20th of January, 1376, inclusive, he died on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Martin, in the 50th of Edward III.,²¹ being then seized of the manors of Bekesworth, in Kent, Wokelyngton, in Essex, East Bradenham, in Norfolk, Huntingfield, Mendham, and Benges, in Suffolk, Toft juxta Preston, Frampton, Biker, Hiploft-halle, in Toft, and Pinchebec, called Russell's manor, in Lincolnshire, leaving Alice, the widow of Sir John

¹⁵ Harl. MSS. 708.¹⁶ Blomefield: Bradenham.¹⁷ Rot. Fin. 31 Ed. I. m. 15.¹⁸ Rot. Scac. 34 Ed. I. m. 3.¹⁹ Harl. MSS. 708.²⁰ Claus. 8 Ed. III. m. 43.²¹ Claus.

de Norwich, Knt., his kinswoman and next heir, thirty years of age.²² In the person of this knight perished the ancient and distinguished race of the Huntingfelds.

There is in existence, and in the most perfect state of preservation, both as regards the deed itself and the seals attached, a charter of Roger de Huntingfeld, the father of the last representative of the line, whereby he confirms the manumission of a slave, made free by William de Huntingfeld, his ancestor. The confirmation is made to William le Gardener, and states that the manumission from bondage was granted for his fidelity, and ten marks sterling. The deed is dated at Mendham, in Suffolk, in the 9th of Edward III. It is a very curious, and, I apprehend, a very rare document, and shows that the great body of the common people of England were formerly slaves, and alienated as such by name, at the arbitrary pleasure of their lords, together with their families, and all their goods and chattels.

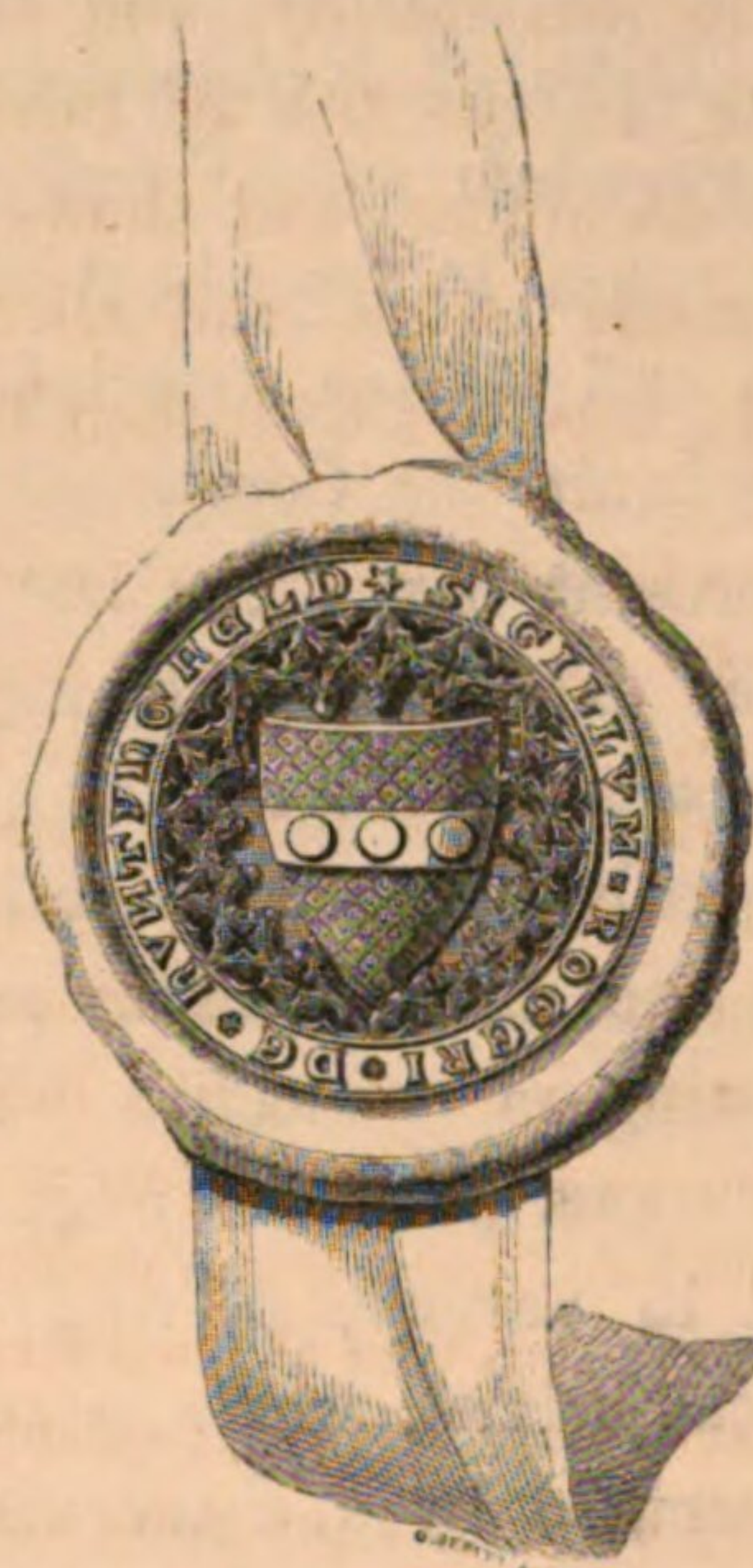
Omnibus Christi fidelibus hoc presens scriptum visuris vel auditoris, Rogerus, Dominus de Huntingfeld salutem in Domino. Noveritis me inspexisse quoddam scriptum quod Willielmus de Huntingfeld, miles, proavus meus, quondam Dominus de Huntingfeld fecit Willielmo le Gardener in hæc verba. Universis sanctæ matris ecclesiæ filiis ad quorum audientiam hoc presens scriptum pervenerit, Willielmus de Huntingfeld, miles, salutem in salvationis auctore. Noveritis me dedisse, et concessisse pro me et heredibus meis Willielmo le Gardener pro fidelitate suâ et pro decem marcis sterlingorum, quas michi dedit per manibus Thomam, filiū Reginaldi le Gardener, quondam nativū meū cum toto tenemento suo cum omnibus catallis, bonis et suis mobilibus et immobilibus et in tota sequela sua liberum et ab omni servitute quietum; quem ipsum predictum Thomam cum tota sequela sua coram pluribus manumisi; et pro me, et heredibus meis ab omni servitute quietum, clamam habendum et tenendum predictum Thomam cum tota sequela sua liberum et quietum ab omni servitute predicto Willielmo, preterea quod nec ego, nec heredes mei, nec aliquis pro nobis vel nomine nostro de predicto Thoma, nec de sequela sua, neque de catallis et bonis suis mobilibus et immobilibus, vel de tenemento suo aliquid detrimento quocunque modo vendrare exigere, capere, vel habere possint. Sed remaneat predictus Thomas cum totâ sequelâ suâ liber et quietus ab omni servitute imperpetuum. Et ego predictus Willielmus de Huntingfeld et heredes mei predictum Thomam filium Reginaldi le Gardener cum totâ sequelâ suâ et cum omni tenemento suo et cum omnibus catallis et bonis suis mobilibus et immobilibus liberum et ab omni servitute quietum predicto Willielmo warrantizabunt imperpetuum. Et ut hæc mea donatio et concessio rate sint et stabiles, et perpetuum robur optineant, huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Domino Philippo de Heveningham, Johanne de Huntingfeld, Roberto de Ubbeston, Willielmo de Cokeleye, Johanne Bomund, Johanne de Derneford, Stephano de Wyndermle, Thoma le Ffraunceys, Adam de Rendham, Matho de Rendham, Johanne de la Mere, Waltero de Alderhegs, Simone nepote, magistro Simone, filio suo, Humfrido de Batesford, et aliis militibus. Quod quidem scriptum in omnibus suis punctis et viribus approbo, firmum et stabile teneo, et de novo ratifico et confirmo, ratum et gratum habens et habendus quicquid in eodem scripto continetur. Volo etiam et concedo pro me et heredibus meis quod Johannes le Gardener, filius et heres predicti Thome, filii Reginaldi le Gardener, et totus exitus eorundem Thome et Johannis cum totâ sequelâ eorum procreatus et procreandus liberi sint, et liberæ conditionis, et ab omni jugo servili exhonorati, et liberi permaneant absque calumpniâ seu clamore mei vel heredum meorum

²² Esch. 50 Ed. III.

imperpetuum. Salvis tamen michi et heredibus meis omnibus redditibus et serviciis de tenementis ipsius Johannis libere exemptibus michi debitis et consuetis. In cujus rei testimonium huic scripto sigillam meam tam magnum quam secretum apposui. Hiis testibus Domino Edwardo de Sancto Mauro, Domino Thoma Bavent, Domino Johanne, filio suo, Domino Edmundo de Soterle, militibus. Petro Gernegan, Johanne Cudyn, Roberto de Redisham, Johanne Ffraunceys, et aliis. Dat. apud Mendham in Com. Suff. die veneris proximo post festum decollationis Sancti Johannis Baptistæ, anno regni Regis Edwardi tertij post conquestum nono.²³



Seal attached.



Secretum on the reverse of the wax.

Though from the above, and various other evidences, it is impossible to disprove

²³ Ex carta orig. In Dr. Whitaker's 'History of Whalley,' p. 134, is the following deed of sale of a slave and his family, by Gregory, Abbot of Whalley :

"Omnibus, &c. Gregorius Abbas et Conv. de Whalley, salm. Noveritis nos, pro nobis et singulis successoribus nostris, dedisse, concessisse, et tradidisse dilecto nobis in Christo I. G. et assignatis suis R. fil. I. fil. A. de W. nativum nostrum cum totâ sequelâ suâ, et omnibus rebus suis habitis et habendis, pro centum solidis sterlingorum nobis a p̄dicto Johanne traditis et solutis, ita quod p̄dictus R. cum totâ sequelâ suâ et omnibus rebus suis ut p̄dict est, liberi sint soluti et quieti ab omni calumpnia, &c. Ita quod, nec nos, nec successores nostri aliquid juris vel clamei in p̄dictis, ratione nativitatis de cætero quoque modo poterimus vindicare. Salvo jure nostro et calumpnia nostra versus *quoscunque alios nativos* nostros. In cujus rei testimonium huic carte nostre, quam ad majorem securitatem fecimus indentari, tam nos quam p̄dictus I sigilla nostra mutuo apposuimus."

In Lancashire we find, from the preceding deed, that the price of a slave with his family and possessions was five pounds; in Suffolk, the wretched creature and his appendages were rather more valuable, fetching six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence.

the absolute slavery of the great body of cottagers and handicraftsmen in our country villages under the Norman Barons, the opinion which formerly prevailed, and perhaps with some persons still prevails, "that in the time of the Anglo-Saxon monarchs of England, and particularly in the reign of the great and good king Alfred, every man in England was perfectly free,—and that slavery was first introduced into this kingdom by the Norman Conquest,"—is shown to be totally unfounded by a chirograph or grant of the manor of Spalding, in Lincolnshire, to the abbey of Crowland, by Thorold, a Saxon gentleman, in the year 1051, fifteen years before the invasion of England by William, Duke of Normandy,—whereby thirteen inhabitants, with all their family, "totam sequelam suam," and all their goods and chattels, are transferred, or made over, by name, to the Abbot of Crowland, as appendages to the manor.²⁴ These were the servi and villeins recorded in Domesday, and recognized as such under the Saxon rule of Edward the Confessor.²⁵ In fact, villeinage has never been abolished by law to the present day. The last villein was either manumitted by his lord, or set free by death. The institution expired through the effect of opinion, and the last claim for the possession of a man as a villein was so late as the reign of James I.

The seals attached to this deed of manumission by Roger de Huntingfeld are amongst the most beautiful in the whole series of such appendages, known to be now existing in connection with the county of Suffolk. The large seal illustrates several curious points of military costume. The warrior, charging at full speed, is sheathed in armour, of ring mail, and, peering through the grated aventaille of his conical helmet, which is crowned with his crest, brandishes a formidable broadsword, secured by a chain attached to his mameliere, or breast-piece. An ailette, or shoulder-piece, emblazoned with his arms, flutters at his back, while the same armorial bearings appear on his shield, and the trappings of his charger. The arçons, or high back of the saddle, are also distinctly shown; and the whole design inimitably represented by the artist who has engraved it. The folded ornament which shows itself between the helmet of the rider and the neck of the horse, probably, represents the cointise of silk attached to the crest.

The secretum is, perhaps, a still more interesting seal than the former.

Among the inquisitions held in the fiftieth of Edward III., it was found that William, Lord Huntingfeld, long before his decease, was seized of property in Huntingfield, and divers other parishes, with the advowsons of Huntingfield, Cookley, and Pettistree, in Suffolk; and by a fine levied in the forty-eighth of that reign, between William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, querent, and the feoffees of the said William, Lord Huntingfeld, defendants, this property became settled on the said Earl

²⁴ Cens. Litt. vol. x. p. 365, *et seq.*

²⁵ Domesday, *passim*.

for life, after the decease of the said William; with the remainder to Thomas, William, and Edmund, sons of the said Earl; all of whom died without issue. Alice, widow of Sir John de Norwich, Knt., who was kinswoman and next heir to this William de Huntingfield, did not inherit his estates in consequence of the above settlement, and the said property passed to the three sisters of William, Earl of Suffolk, upon his decease in the fourth of King Richard II. William de la Pole married Catharine, daughter of Sir John de Norwich by this Alice; and after Catharine's decease, in the fifth of Richard II., Michael de la Pole, her son, had license from the Crown to castellate his manor-houses at Wingfield, Sternfield, and Huntingfield, in the eighth of the same reign.²⁶ Upon the attainder and execution of Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, in 1513, his estates were forfeited to the Crown; but in the following year, Sir Robert Drury, Knt., Sir John Heydon, Knt., and Edmund Gelget, preferred a petition to the King on the behalf of Margaret de la Pole, Countess of Suffolk, widow of the late Earl, setting forth that she had a life interest in the manor of Huntingfield, with nine other lordships in Suffolk, and divers manors in Norfolk, as her jointure. Upon the hearing of this, the whole were assigned to her, but devolved to the Crown at her death, which took place about the year 1516.²⁷

On the 1st of October, in the twenty-ninth of Henry VIII., indentures were made to Nicholas Smith, of Huntingfield Hall,²⁸ which, by letters patent bearing date March the 20th, 1559, was conveyed with the manor to Sir Henry Carey, by Queen Elizabeth, to be held by him and the heirs male of his body, lawfully begotten. This knight, who was son and heir of William Carey, by Mary Boleyn, sister to Queen Anne Boleyn, and consequently cousin to Queen Elizabeth, was created by that monarch Baron Hunsdon of Hunsdon, in the county of Herts., January 13th, 1559. Huntingfield Hall, while in the possession of this nobleman, was honoured with a visit from the Queen, who is stated to have enjoyed the pleasures of the chase, and to have shot a buck with her own hand from a venerable tree in the park, still known as "Queen Elizabeth's oak." Lord Hunsdon died in 1596, and by an inquisition taken at Deptford Strand, on the 8th of October, in the thirty-eighth of Elizabeth's reign, was found to have been seized at the day of his death, *inter alia*, in Hertfordshire, Kent, York, and Essex, of the manor of Huntingfield, worth £22 per annum.²⁹ He was succeeded by George Carey, his eldest son, who died in the year 1603, leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Sir John Spencer, of Althorp, an only daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, who married Sir Thomas Berkeley, Knt., and died in 1635. Their

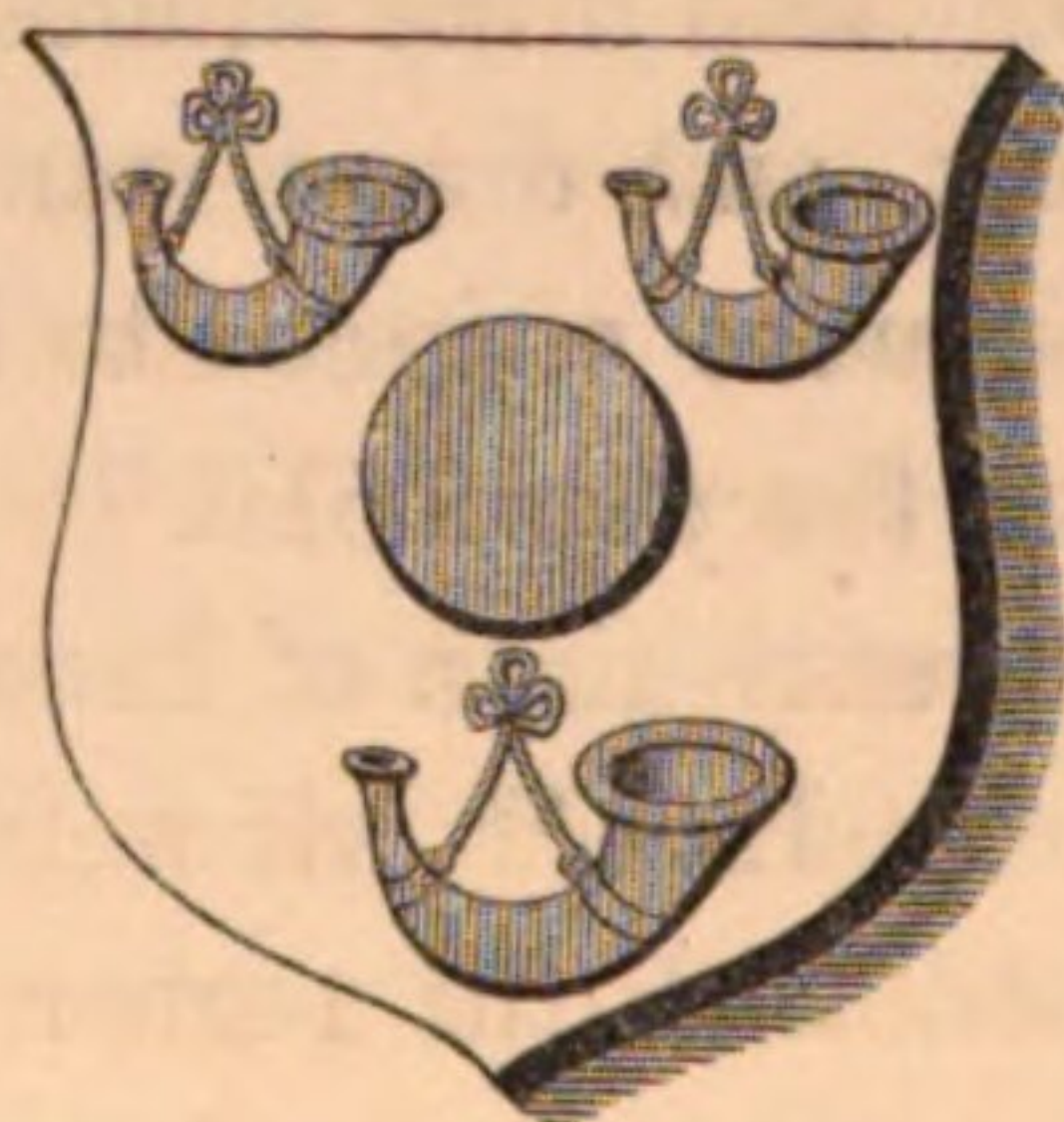
²⁶ Quod Michael de la Pole, sen. in maneriis suis de Wingfield, Sternefield, et Huntingfield, in com. Suff. castrum vel castra possit erigere. Rot. Pat. de an. 8 Ric. II. p. u. m. 16.

²⁷ Blomefield.

²⁸ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

²⁹ Harl. MSS.

daughter, Theophila, who inherited the manor of Huntingfield, &c., married Sir Robert Coke, second son and heir of Sir Edward Coke, Knt., who, in right of his wife, was lord of Huntingfield, and died without issue in 1653.³⁰ On his decease, John Coke, Esq., of Holkham, in Norfolk, fourth son of Sir Edward, succeeded to this estate, by the will of his brother, whose descendants possessed it until it was sold by Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester, about the year 1752, to Sir Joshua Vanneck, of Putney, in the county of Suffolk, Baronet. Sir Joshua devised this manor, inter alia, to his son, Sir Gerard William Vanneck, Bart., who, dying unmarried, bequeathed the same to his brother Joshua, afterwards created Lord Huntingfield, and who died on the 15th of August, 1816. He was succeeded in his title and estates by his son Joshua, the late Lord Huntingfield, who died in August, 1844, when the manor of Huntingfield, inter alia, passed to his son, the Right Hon. Charles Andrew Vanneck, the present Lord Huntingfield.



Vanneck.

"Queen Elizabeth's oak," and the old mansion of the Huntingfields, now destroyed, are thus noticed in a letter from the Rev. Chas. Davy, formerly of Onehouse, in Suffolk.

"Its bulk was found to be nearly eleven yards in circumference at the height of seven feet from the ground; and if we may conjecture from the condition of other trees of the same sort, in different parts of the kingdom, whose ages are supposed to be pretty well ascertained from some historical circumstances, I am persuaded this cannot be less than five or six hundred years old. The queen's oak at Huntingfield was situated in a park of the Lord Hunsdon, about two bow-shots from the old mansion-house, where Queen Elizabeth is said to have been entertained by this nobleman, and to have enjoyed the pleasures of the chase in a kind of rural majesty. The approach to it was by a bridge, over an arm of the river Blythe, and, if I remember

³⁰ The family of Coke had large estates in Huntingfield before their acquisition of the manor. In 1582, Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice, then Edward Coke, Esq., married Bridget, daughter and heiress of John Paston, Esq., of Huntingfield, with whom he acquired a fortune of £30,000. In the summer of 1592, the plague making its appearance in London, Coke was compelled to leave town abruptly, and retired to his house at Huntingfield. Sir Robert Coke died in the year of his sheriffalty.

right, through three square courts. A gallery was continued the whole length of the building, which, opening upon a balcony over the porch, gave an air of grandeur with some variety to the front. The great hall was built round six straight massy oaks, which originally supported the roof as they grew: upon these the foresters and yeomen of the guard used to hang their nets, cross-bows, hunting poles, great saddles, calivers, bills, &c. The roots of them had been long decayed when I visited this romantic dwelling; and the shafts sawn off at bottom were supported either by irregular logs of wood, driven under them, or by masonry. Part of the long gallery, where the Queen and her fair attendants used to divert themselves, was converted into an immense cheese chamber, and upon my first looking into it in the dusk of a summer's evening, when a number of these huge circular things were scattered upon the floor, it struck me that the Maids of Honour had just slipped off their farthingales to prepare for a general romping.

"Elizabeth is reported to have been much pleased with the retirement of this park, which was filled with tall and massy timbers, and to have been particularly amused and entertained with the solemnity of its walks and bowers; but this oak, from which the tradition is that she shot a buck with her own hand, was her favourite tree: it is still in some degree of vigour, though most of its boughs are broken off, and those which remain are approaching to a total decay, as well as its vast trunk; the principal arm, *now bald with dry antiquity*, shoots up to a great height above the leafage, and being hollow and truncated at top, with several cracks resembling loop-holes, through which the light shines into its cavity, it gives us an idea of the winding staircase in a lofty Gothic turret, which, detached from the other ruins of some venerable pile, hangs tottering to its fall, and affects the mind of a beholder after the same manner by its greatness and sublimity.

"No traces of the old Hall, as it was called, are now remaining; having fallen into an irreparable state of decay, it was taken down a few years since, by the late Sir Joshua Vanneck, Baronet. I have so much of the antiquary in me, as to wish that some memorial of its simple grandeur could have been preserved."

Certain estates called "Alderiches" and "Wyvetts," and lying in the parishes of Huntingfield, Heveningham, Ubbeston, and Cratfield, were held in the 2nd of Edward VI. by Robert Norton and his heirs, of the King, in capite, inter alia, by the service of the 60th part of a knight's fee. In the following year, this Robert Norton had license of alienation to Thomas Gawdye,³¹ who in the same year obtained a similar license to alienate them to John Southwell, Edward Withipole, Robert Lyndsey, and Richard Withe, and their heirs. Robert Lyndsey held them

³¹ Harl. MSS. 1232.

in the 6th of Queen Elizabeth, with license of alienation to William Howard. By an inquisition taken on the 29th of October, in the 9th of Elizabeth, before Edward Ashfield, Esq., Escheator, it appears that this William Howard held, at the day of his death, 160 acres of land, pasture and bosc, in Huntingfield, Cratfield, Ubbeston, Heveningham, Linstead Parva, and Linstead Magna, commonly called Aldriches and Wivetts, of the annual value of £vij., held of the Queen, by the 60th part of a knight's fee, &c.; and that permission was granted to Elizabeth his wife, to retain the same, until John Howard should have completed his twenty-first year; then the said lands to go to the said John and his heirs; and that the aforesaid Elizabeth, on the day of the inquisition, was in full health, and that the said John, on the day abovesaid, was of the age of eleven years, five months, and twenty days.³²

Huntyngfeld. Feoda militum p̄tin p̄dco m̄nio.

Crane.	Robertus Crane, armig. tenet maner. suum de Chylton, Waldringfeld, et Newton, in com. Suff. in Hundred de Babbergh, nup. hered. Andree Butteler, et redd. de Ward. quolibet termino xx <i>d.</i>	xx <i>d.</i>
Heningham.	Joh̄es Anthoneus Henningham, arm. ten. terras suas in Huntingfeld, p. homag. nup. Joh̄is Heningham, mil. et quondam Rici. Carbonell, et redd. de Ward. ad term.	j <i>d.</i> ob.
Benall.	Dn̄us. m̄nii de Benall ten. tert. p̄s. unius feod. mil. quasi med. de Ward. q̄d. ipse percepit in Sutton solvendo isto m̄nio vj <i>d.</i> ob.	vj <i>d.</i> ob.
Smythe.	ten. in Huntingfeld tent. voc. Kelings, p. dim. feod. mil. nuper Joh̄is Smythe, de Monte, quond. Rogeri Everard, capel. et 2 de Ward	x <i>d.</i>
Sutton	ten. tent. suum ib̄m p. iiij <i>a.</i> pt. unius feodi milit. nuper Joh̄is	
Smythe.	Smythe, mil. et quondam Joh̄is Rouse, et redd. de Ward. as. i.	vd.
Cantar. de	Feoff. Cantar. ibi tenet terr. s. ibi nup. Steph̄i Wyvill, et Galfri	
Huntingfelde.	Wywyth, voc. tent. Herveys, p. iiij. part. feod. milit. et redd. p. terr. nuper d̄ci Steph̄i de Ward. ob. ad. term. et p. terr. nuper d̄ci Galfri. in man. Joh̄is Pygott, iiij <i>d.</i> ob.	vd.
Tent. p.	Omnes isti tenent. q. sequuntur, terr. p. homag. et redd. de Ward. ut inferius,	
homag. et r.	vid. Joh̄is Smythe, p. tent. Downelds, Robtus Ede, ob. p. tent. Nalters,	
de Ward	Stephus, j <i>d.</i> Lethon. p. un. tent. nuper Walteri Benocle, Walterus, ob. qu.	
ut infer.	Blakey, p. tent. vocat. Spynks ob. Henricus Oldcroft, p. terr. nup. Joh̄is Coke, Edus Barfate, p. tent. Brothoes, nup. Henrici Smythe, Joh̄is Blakey, j <i>d.</i> p. tent. vocat. Newhaughes, nup. Willi. Deade, et redd. ut supra	vd. ob.
Edm̄us Colway terr. tent. Stonders et Wyntercoks, nuper Thome Spynke, Robtus Lether, ten. terras vocat. &c. ³³		
William de la Poole, com. Suff. ten. in Huntyngfeld j. f. mil. de pt. ij. f. Jocosa de Huntyngfeld nup. tenuit de Honor de Eye, et que Radus de Nevill nup. hint ex concess. Rs.		
. vjs. viij <i>d.</i>		

³² MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

³³ Harl. MSS. 370, coll. circ. 31 Hen. VIII.

Her. Alic. de la More, Rogo Evrard, clico, et Johe Fyn, ten. iiij. pt. f. mil. de pte.
 p̄dc̄or. ij. feod. qua Alic. de la More, Johes Godwayne, Petri Chapman, et
 Willo, fil. Simonis quondm tenuer. de p̄dca maner de Huntyngefeld £ij. hic
 qr. p̄dca jjij. pt. dividit ut sup. £ij. per inquis.
 Uno di feod. mil. in Huntyngefeld, qd her. Stephi Sucklyng, Alic. de Rendham,
 Johes Goodwyn, senr., Johes Fechelor, Robto Gerard, Stephus Suclyng, Johes,
 fil. Johis Roughhaugh, Simon Chernell, her. Johis Wilkyn, Will. Fycheler,
 Willo Vesselyn, Will. le Smyth de Laxfield, Johes Aldewyne, Johes de
 Kersey, Johes Sucklyng, et Will. fil. et her. Willi de Huntyngefeld nup.
 tener. de p̄dco maner. et de p̄dcis ij. feod. que dca Jocosa quondm tenuit de
 honor. de Eye, q. £ij. hic eo qd mil. ten. p. svic Alion f. mil. ibm. sicut cont.
 in quadm inquisitio inde coram p̄fat Gill. capt. et penes has p̄ticular
 rem.³⁴ £ij. p. inquis.

Robert Malet, by his foundation charter of the priory of Eye, confirmed to that house the donation which Roger de Huntingfield made them of two parts of the tithes of the demesne of Huntingfield. Robert, his nephew, gave to the same priory his tithe of Huntingfield, and Joselinus de Holesleya gave the tithe of one hundred acres in this parish. Their gifts were confirmed by charter of Henry I. The priory of Eye granted these possessions in this parish to the prior and convent of Herst, at the annual rent of two silver marks.³⁵ In the year 1272, mention is made of twenty shillings rent from the manor of Huntingfield due to the Abbot of Sibton.³⁶ In 1387, Thomas de Hoxne, Rector of Huntingfield, Jeffry Hardegray, of Moringthorpe, William Rous, of Dennington, and Jeffry Bardolph, of Causton, presented Robert Scherwynd to the rectory of Hardwick.³⁷ In 1370, this Thomas Hoxne was one of the trustees of Roger de Huntingfield, when he settled Kingshall manor, in Mendham, upon the priory there.³⁸ Before the Reformation there was a chantry here of the yearly value of £4. 17s. 6d., the lands belonging to which were granted by King James I. to Sir Edward Coke, in 1604.³⁹ The estates of this charity are noticed in the preceding list of knights' fees.

THE CHURCH,

dedicated to St. Mary, is of ancient date, and has witnessed the orisons of the Huntingfields, who were, probably, its founders; but it has been so altered at various periods, that the exact era of its erection would be settled with difficulty. As it now stands it comprises a square tower in which hang five bells, a nave with aisles, an ample chancel,

³⁴ Ex Rot. ant. pen. W. S. Fitch, arm.

³⁵ MSS. Jermyn and Davy, from the register de Eya. f. 17, 18, 19, 48.

³⁶ Rot. Fin. Suff. 1 Ed. I. n. 63.

³⁷ Blomefield.

³⁸ Idem.

³⁹ Kirby.

and a large room on the north side, about 27 feet long, by 15 or 16 wide, built by Sir Joshua Vanneck, the first Baronet of his race, as a family vault. The nave, apparently the oldest portion of the fabric, is divided from the north aisle by a series of massive square-edged and plain columns, which support pointed arches equally rude and unfinished; leaving it doubtful whether Norman piers and arches have been tampered with by unskilful masons, or the heavy arcade cut through the ancient solid wall to give access to the aisle. The addition of the south aisle has been more successfully executed, and opens to the body of the church by octangular pillars. There is a small cinque-foil aperture over the northern arcade. The chancel seems to have been built in the latter part of the reign of Henry III., though the east window is of the perpendicular character. The subordinate parts and ornaments of the entire fabric were originally finished in a costly style, and much painted glass enriched its windows. In 1573, the following coats were to be seen :

In the chancel on the north syde.

Huntingfeld, or, on a fess gul. 3 plates.
 Grey—Arg. and b. barree of 6 peces.
 Id. With a label of 5 points gul.
 Gu. and or, checke, a chief erm.
 Ar. a fess twixt 2 chevs. gu.
 Gul. on a chev. between 3 lions' têtes erased or, 3 torteaux with divers coats quartered.

On the south syde.

De lapoole q^r. Wyngfeld.
 Huntingfeild againe, and by yt, Grey of Wilton.

In a table on the south side.

Gu. two broad arrowes p. salter fethered and heded arg. twixt 4 lyons' heeds croned and rased or, syded with D. Brandon, and also syded and q^rterly.
 Or, 3 barres gu. in chief 3 martlets b. Multon.
 Tyllyard. Erm. on a bend engr^d twyxt 2 martlets gu. The crest, a lyon's head croned and rased or, langued arg.

In the north yle.

One of Er. of Warwick; one of Ufford.
 Amone Wynnevell, arg. on a chev. b. 3 or, bis.

It. on the founte.

Ufford syded with Beauchamp.
 Delapoole q^r. Wingfield.⁴⁰

In 1806, the following arms remained in the chancel windows :

North.

1. Checky or and gules, a chief erm.
2. Arg. a fess between 2 chevronels gules. Peache?

⁴⁰ Lansdowne MSS.

South.

1. De la Poole and Wingfield quarterly.
2. Or, a fess gules with 3 plates.
3. Barry of 6 a. and b. a label of 3 points gul.

In the church.

1. Gules, a fess between 6 cross-crosetts or. Beauchamp.
2. Sab. a cross engrailed or. Ufford.
3. Wingfield and De la Pole quarterly.⁴¹

De la Pole quartering Wingfield is still to be seen in the east window.

On a label placed above a shield of arms, now gone, was the name of **Margaret Bowyn**, in a south window; round the edge of which were the remains of painted glass representing rabbits, escallops, and lions.⁴² An excellent octangular font of stone stands in the west end of the nave, six sides of which are carved with lions and rosettes, and the other two panels bear, respectively, the arms of De la Pole quartering Wingfield, and Ufford impaling Beauchamp. Remains of the Easter sepulchre are visible in the chancel, though the lower part of the arch is filled with an altar-tomb, erected to the memory of John Paston, Esq., in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. On the wall of the upper portion of the recess, which rises above the slab of the tomb, may be discerned the figure of Christ sitting in judgment, immediately beneath the apex of the arch. Beneath him were represented some other figures, probably the multitudes assembled to receive their doom, but the paint is so discoloured and scratched, that the design is no longer to be clearly traced.

A kind of gallery-pew, appropriated to the Vanneck family, which stretched across the chancel arch, has been very recently removed, much to the improvement, in every respect, of the church, and the decent celebration of public worship. Over the doorway of the south porch, which is well built of flint, are the emblems of the Trinity and the Crucifixion.

On the slab of the altar-tomb, erected in the Easter sepulchre, is a large plate of brass, thus inscribed:

**This earthlpe couloured marble stone behold with weeping eyes;
Under whose cold and massie weight, John Paston buried lies.
A gentele man by birth and deedes, the second sonne to one
Syr William Paston, worthie knight, deceased long ago.
This gentle esquier in Huntingfield, a widow tooke to wyfe,
That hight Anne Arrowsmith, with whom he ledde a lobing lye**

⁴¹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁴² Idem.

Cleaben yeres space and somewhat more, by whom he also had
 One onlpe child, a birgine myld, is aged hart to glad.
 In youthful yeres this gentleman a gallant cortier was,
 With rarest bertues well adorned, to courtiers all a glasse.
 A pencioner to princes foure, Henrpe theight, that roye,
 To Edward king, to Marpe quene, to Elisabethhe, our joye.
 Which foure he serbed faythfullie; the court lament his end,
 His countrie neighboures all bewaile the loss of such a friend.
 To poore a present remedie, to honest men an ayde,
 A father to the fatherles, the widowes playnte he mayde.
 Againste the hongrie travailer his doores were neber shitt,
 Againste the seelie needpe soule his purse was neber knite.
 When he had libed threescore yeres and foure, death closd up his eyes,
 He lybed well, he dyed well, and buryed here he lyes.

Paston's shield of eight coats is attached to the preceding epitaph :

1. Paston, argent, 6 fleurs-de-lis az. 3, 2, 1, a chief indented or.
2. Somerton, or, on a chev. between 3 lions' heads erased gul. as many bezants.
3. Smallborough, sab. a chev. arg. between 3 bears' heads, couped or, muzzled gules.
4. a cross.
5. erm. on a chief indented 2 coronets.
6. a fess in chief
7. a fess between 2 chevronels
8. Paston.

A monument to the memory of Anne, daughter of John Moulton, Esq., first married to Nices Smithe, of Huntingfeild Hall, Esq.; secondly to John Paston, of Sporle, Esq., by whome she had issue Bridget; thirdly to Edward Bedingfeild, of Oxboroughs, Esq. She was a godly, wise, and vertuous woman, and kept a bountiful house in Huntingfeild Hall, especially for ye poore, nere fifty yeares. She departed this life in her good old age, the 20 day of June, Ano. Dni. 1595. Edward Coke, Esqr., Attorney generall to ye Queenes Matie, who married the said Bridget, for ye great dutie and reverence he ought to ye said Anne, caused this monument, in memory of her, to be made.

- Arms—1. Gules 2 arrows saltire-wise or, feathered arg. between four lions' heads erased and crowned of the second. Smithe, or Arrowsmithe, impaling
2. Barry of 6, gules and arg. on a chief of the 2nd, 3 martlets az.
 3. Paston, with a crescent for difference, impaling Moulton.
 4. Bedingfeld impaling Moulton.

Beneath are the arms of—1. Bedingfeld. 2. Arg. a chev. between 3 chaplets gules. 3. Sab. a chev. between 3 covered cups or. And Coke of four coats.

On a brass in the chancel: Heere lyeth the bodye of Elizabeth Cooke, daughter of Edward Cooke and Brydget his wyffe, who deceased the ix day of November, in the yeare of $\bar{o}$ lorde God, 1586. John Wells, clk., Rector, died April 26th, 1758, aged 47. Mrs. Martha Shute, obt. 19th March, 1705-6, aged 72 years—the pious mother of that hopeful issue, and virtuous relict of that consistent divine Mr. Richard Shute, sometime minister of this place, but last of Stow Market, in Suffolk. Thomas Shute, born January 1st, 1660, died 19th October, 1669; an exceeding beautifull, apprehensive, ingenious and hopeful child. *Acumen ingenii, teneram animæ vaginam, ah! citius dissecuit*: Ann Shute, born and died 6th May, 1669; the sole issue of their mournful parents.

Heaven's Ela choristers are these, the second birth
Fits more soules to their consort, rais'd 'bove baser earth.
But yet earth's second wombe theire bodyes keepes and must,
Till their more heightened soules resume more raised dust.

Two small effigies, to represent these hopeful infants, are incised in the marble slab which records their fate.

In memoriam Reverendi Edmundi Stubbe, S.T.P. fil. Francisci Stubbe de Scottow, in com. Norf. gen. qui per annos 38 hujus ecclesiæ rector erat, concionator eloquens, hospitalis vicinus, literaturæ exemplar, et convocationis membrum, obiit 9^o Apr. An. Dom. 1659, æt. 67. Uxorem duxit Margaretam fil. Wolfrani Smyth, de Laxfield, in com. Suff. gen. per quam filios et filias 15 habuit. Filius et hæres, Edwardus, in medicinâ doctor, felicem domini Jesu præstolans Epiphaniam, 5^o Oct. an. salut. 1659, æt. 30, ad plures decessit. Arms: Stubbe, sab. on a bend between 3 pheons arg., as many round buckles of the 1st.

Richard Aldous, Gent., died Aug. 28, 1739, aged 71. Mary, his wife, died March 16th, 1753, aged 77 years. Arms: Aldous . . . a lion ramp.—holding an annulet. F. Jones, Rector, obt. 1763. Mary, late wife of Henry Uhthoff, clk., Rector, died 6th April, 1845, aged 80 years. Gertrude Julia Clarissa Uhthoff, died December 14, 1827, aged 55. Claudius Vaustin, died Aug. 17, 1789, aged 50 years.⁴³

In the Vanneck vault are these coffins, thus inscribed:

1. Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart., obiit 5 March, 1777, ætatis suæ 77.
2. Sir Gerard William Vanneck, Bart., obt. 23 Maij, 1791, ætatis suæ 48.
3. The Honourable Marianne Gertrude Vanneck, died 14 March, 1798, aged 61 years.
4. Elizabeth Daubuz, died September 15, 1774, aged 66.

⁴³ He was cook to Sir Gerard Vanneck.—Jermyn MSS.

5. Miss Harriet, daughter of Sir Jos. Vanneck, Bart., died 8th March, 1792, aged seven years and eleven days.

6. Joshua, first Lord Huntingfield, of the Vanneck family, buried August 22nd, 1816.

7. Joshua, second Lord Huntingfield, buried August 19th, 1844.

These armorial bearings are on hatchments hanging in the same burial-place :

1. For Mrs. Daubuz, sister to the first Lady Vanneck, az. a chev. between 3 acorns pendent or.
2. Vanneck impaling Daubuz.
3. Vanneck impaling, arg., a boar's head caboshed gul. on a chief or, a cross-croset fitchee between 2 mullets gules.
4. Vanneck impales 1. Arg. 3 chevronels sab., the middle one charged with 3 bezants. Arcedeckne. 2. Blois.

RECTORS OF HUNTINGFIELD.

Rectors.	Date.	Patrons.
Richard Leneband	1311	Dña Jocosa, ux. Dñi Rog. de Huntingfeld.
Petrus, fil. Jois de Belagh	1328	Rog. fil. et heres Dñi W ^m . de Huntingfeld.
Thomas de Colyngham	1349	Rex. racone cust. hæ. Roger de Huntingfeld.
Robert Gardener, de Cheston	1361	Will. Huntingfeld, miles.
Joës, fil. Willi. Couper de Lynsted	1365	Id.
Thomas Hoxn	1371	Joës de Stikesford.
William Alred	1396	Dña Isabella, com. Suff.
Joës Hawtyn	1447	Will. de la Pole, mar. et com. Suff.
Thomas Peresson	1462	Alice, Duchessa de Suff.
Robertus Barker	1487	Assig. Jois Duc. de Suff.
William Wrichte	1510	Dña Marg. de la Pole, racone dotis.
William Laeke	1512	
Christopher Linham		
Richard Undrewood	1566	Assig. Caroli, nup. Ducis de Suff.
George Booth	1571	Assig. Henry Carey, Dñi Hunsdon.
Edmund Stubbe	1621	Robert Coke, mil.
Nathanael Ducket		
Jos. Jones	1666	Joës Coke, arm.
Mat. Smalwood	1675	Robert Coke.
Peter Ducket	1695	Hor. Walpole, arm. et Dña Anna. ux.
Nicholas Cremer	1709	Horace Walpole, arm.
John Wells	1731	Carolus Gibbs, clk.
John Wells	1745	John Wells, clk. p. h. v.
Francis Jones	1758	Sir Joshua Vanneck, Bart.
Gaspar Joel Moned	1764	Id.
Henry Uhthoff	1782	Sir Gerard William Vanneck, Bart.

Hæres Dñi Guil. de Huntingfeld, militis, est patronus ejusdem. Rector habet mansum pertinens

eccliae cum xxx acris terræ. Estimatio illius, præter portionem, xx marc. Portio Prioris de Eye in eadem xl^s. Procuratio vij^s. vjd. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis. xij^d., et pro termino Paschæ xij^d. Denarii S. Petri xij^d. ob.—Norwich Domesday.

The first entry in the register-book, which was “re-copied from the old book by order of the churchwardens, by George Booth, rector,” bears the date of 1539.

Charities.—The town estate consists of a house, four tenements and homestall, containing about two acres, with a cottage adjoining, all in Huntingfield.—Lands in the parishes of Heveningham and Ubbeston, containing, together, between six and seven acres. These lands were purchased in the fifth of Charles I., and conveyed to trustees.—A copyhold house and homestall of six acres in Heveningham, called “Abbot’s Land,” given or purchased, about the year 1645. The rents of the town estate are applied to the repair of the buildings thereon, and of the church, and the surplus carried to the general account of the parish. In the parish terrier is this entry: “In the said parish there is a small free school of four pounds a year, given by Mr. Barry Snelling, deceased; which said sum is given to the rector and churchwardens of the parish, for the use of schooling poor children; which said money is paid by Lord Huntingfield, out of a farm in his possession, tied for the payment of the money.”

*Extract from the will of Barry Snelling, of Huntingfield, yeoman, dated May 24, 1722, and proved at Norwich, 20th Feb. 1723.*⁴⁴

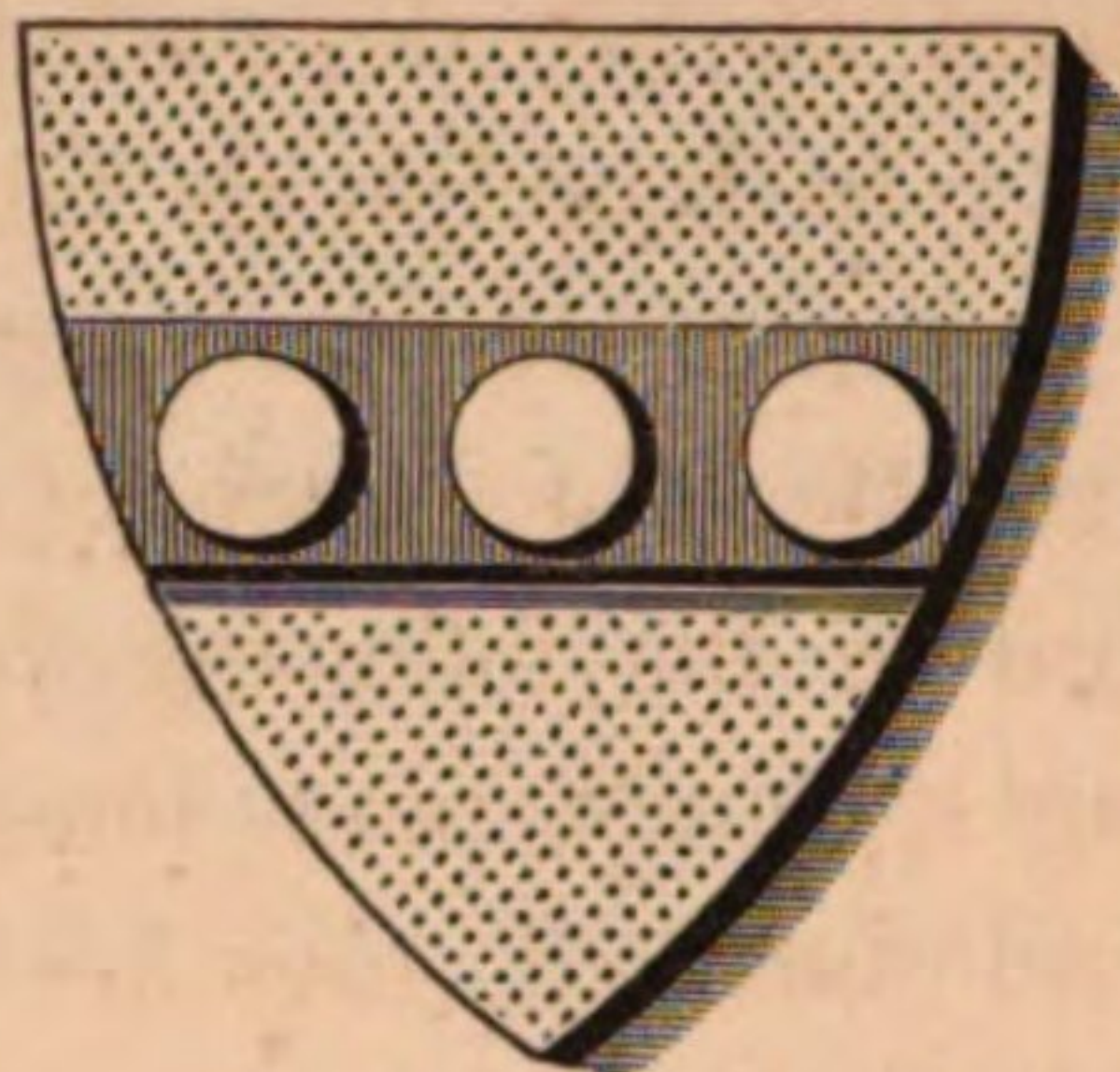
Itm. I give and bequeath all my mess., lands, tents, and hereditam^{ts} whatsoever, as well freehold as copyhold, as well Hammond’s hills, as the farm that I now dwell in, situate, &c., in Huntingfield, in the said county, unto Mark Snelling, my cosen, and to his heirs and assigns, for ever; upon condition, that he, the said Mark Snelling, his heirs and assigns, shall, and do well, and truly pay, or cause to be paid yearly, and every year, for ever, unto the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of the said town of Huntingfield, and their successors, for the time being, the sum of £4 of lawful money of Great Britain, without any abatement for or by reason of any parliamentary taxes, reparations, lords’ rents, or any other charges or deductions, whatsoever, on or upon every Easter Monday, at or in the porch of the parish church of Huntingfield aforesaid. The first payment thereof to be made and begin, on the first Easter monday that shall come after my decease, to be yearly employed towards the keeping up of a free school, to teach such children of poor people in the said parish of Huntingfield to read, who by reason of their friends’ poverty are not able to pay for their learning. And I do hereby further declare, that it is my intent that no part of the said yearly sum of £4, shall at time or times hereafter be employed or paid for any other matter or thing whatsoever, other than as aforesaid.

Power of entry is given in case of non-payment.

The parish of Huntingfield contains, according to the commutation map, 2134 acres, 1 rood, 39 perches, whereof about 120 acres are glebe.

⁴⁴ MSS. Jermyn and Davy, from office copy of will.

The tithes have been commuted at £ 538. 9s. Manorial rights are attached to the rectory. Population in 1841,—397.



Huntingfeld.

Leiston.

LEISTON was a large and important village even in Saxon times, when it swelled the great estate of Edric of Laxfield. This Edric, whose name is of almost constant occurrence in the survey of the north-eastern parts of Suffolk, is thought to have been a Dane by extraction, and related to Edric Streone, the traitorous Earldorman of Mercia, whose perfidy in the reign of Edmund Ironside was the chief cause of the calamities of England. The assumption of a surname from the place of his residence by Edric de Laxfield is a very early and remarkable instance of a continental custom, which did not become general in England till after the Norman Conquest.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Lehtun was held as a manor with twelve carucates of land, of which eleven were in demesne. It contained wood for 500 swine, in which were fattened seventy-two of these animals, under the care of a swineherd. There was a mill on this manor; and five acres of meadow; four draught horses, five cows, 112 sheep, and seven hives of bees. Three churches were then standing in the village, endowed jointly with 100 acres of free land, valued altogether at £ 16. There was also a smaller manor in Lehtun held by a free-man, which consisted of forty acres only, and valued at six shillings; and a third manor, the property of Edric, estimated at twenty shillings, besides some smaller estates. The whole of this parish, which was reckoned to be three leucas in length, and two and a quarter in width, was granted by William the Conqueror to Robert Malet. At the time of the Norman Survey, the first manor had been raised by this chieftain to £ 28, and it paid three shillings and three pence to the land-tax. Gislebert and Fulchred

are mentioned as the under-tenants of Robert Malet, at that time.¹ The King and the Earl possessed the right of soc.² The estates of Robert Malet being forfeited to the Crown on the banishment of his descendant, the manor of Leiston was granted, inter alia, by Henry II., to Ranulph de Glanville,³ who, in 1182, founded an abbey here, on which he bestowed the lordship. The abbots of this house enjoyed the manor of Leiston till the dissolution of their order, in 1536, when it was granted, on the 7th of April in the following year, to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, with all its messuages, lands, and tenements in Leiston, Theberton, Darsham, Culpho, Pettaugh, and Laxfield, together with the rectories of Leiston and Middleton, &c., to be held of the Crown, by the service of one knight's fee. By Charles Brandon these premises were returned to the King by way of exchange for Henham Hall, and remained in the Crown till the 2nd of June, in the third and fourth of Philip and Mary, when these monarchs, by their letters patent, in consideration of £ 571. 5s. 6d., did give and grant to Robert Browne, Esq., one of the Barons of the Exchequer, "the scyte of the manor of the late monastery and abbey of Leiston, and all the buildings, &c., one close called Elmeham close, Sheepe close, Pond close, Bushey close, Horse close, Covent-garden, Hogg close, Applecroft, Park close, one close lying on the west side of the way leading from the said monastery to East Bridge, Chucham meadow, the long meadow, one tenement with the appurtenancies, lying in the Leyin Leiston, which John Kytchen and Muffet, then late had; a wood adjoining to the Horse close, one other wood called Childerwood; all which prs lye in the parish of Leiston and Theberton, in the said county, and then or late in the occupation of the said Robert Browne, and late belonging to the said monastery, and after, parcel of the possessions of Charles Brandon, Duke

¹ Domesday, 311, 311 b.

² Idem, 314.

³ Carta Regis Henrici Secunda, facta Ranulph. de Glamvillâ, de Manerio de Leestune.

[Ex Registro Prioratus de Leeston in bibl. Cotton. folio 33 b.]

Henricus Dei gratiâ, rex Angliæ, dux Normanniæ et Aquitanniæ, et comes Andegaviæ, archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vicecomitibus, ministris, et omnibus fidelibus suis, Francis et Anglis, totius Angliæ, salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse, et præsentî cartâ confirmasse Ranulfo de Glamvillâ manerium de Leestune, cum omnibus pertinentis suis, &c., quæ ad eam pertinent: et lii. sol. quos Willielmus filius Hervei solebat reddere mihi annuatim de terrâ de Selfletâ, sibi et hæredibus suis, ad tenendum de me et de hæredibus meis per servicium dimidii militis. Quare volo et firmiter præcipio, quod ipse Ranulfus, et hæredes sui post eum, omnia prædicta habeant et teneant de me, et de hæredibus meis, per nominatum servitium, benè et in pace, liberè et quietè, integrè et plenariè et honorificè: in bosco et plano; in pratis et pasturis; in aquis et molendinis; in vivariis et stagnis, et in donationibus ecclesiarum; et in viis et semitis, et omnibus aliis locis, et aliis rebus ad ea pertinentibus, et cum omnibus libertatibus, et liberis consuetudinibus suis, sicut ipse dedi eis et concessi, et hac cartâ meâ confirmavi. Testibus, Ricardo de Luci, Hugone de Cressi, Roberto de Stutevill, Rogero de Stutevill, Willielmo de Stutevill, et alias, apud Westmonasterium.

of Suffolk, and which came to King Henry the eighth, by exchange with the said Duke, and were then in the hands of Queen Mary by descent—except the bells and the advowson of the premises—habend. to the said Robert Browne and Joane his wife.”

By an inquisitio post mortem, taken at Beccles, on the 23rd of April, upon the death of this Robert Browne, Esq., he was found to die on the 21st of December, in the 1st year of Queen Elizabeth’s reign, seized of the manor of Leiston, held of the Crown, in capite, and valued at £ 30.⁴ On the 1st of December, in the forty-third of the same reign, a license was obtained from the Queen by John Browne the elder, to alienate the said premises to John Browne the younger, to the use, however, of John Browne the elder, for life. On the 3rd of November, 1602, John Browne, by his will and testament, charges several legacies to be paid out of Leiston Abbey, and lands thereto belonging; and after the decease of John Browne, Esq., and Anne Jeringham, his mother, bequeaths all his lands and manors to his brother, Armiger Browne, for life; remainder to Philip, eldest son of the said Armiger, and the heirs male of his body; remainder to John Browne, second son of the said Armiger; like remainder to Armiger Browne, third son of the said Armiger; like remainder to Robert Browne, brother of the testator, John Browne; like remainder to his sister, Fulter; remainder to the said Robert Browne, and his heirs for ever.⁵ On the 1st of April, in the ninth of James I., Robert Browne, by deed-poll, re-sold and released to Armiger Browne, all his right and demand of and in the said lands, tenements, &c., in Leiston, or elsewhere, or in any other town near adjoining. On the 10th of November, in the 17th of James, the King gave license to the said Armiger Browne, and Philip, his eldest son, to alienate Leiston Abbey, and all these lands and messuages, to Henry Grey the elder, Gentleman, and Henry Grey, Esq., his nephew, and to their heirs and assigns, for £ 2000; the estate sold containing 290 acres; which deed of sale was inrolled in Chancery the 22nd November, in the same year. On the 3rd of November, in the third of Charles I., this monarch granted license of alienation to Henry Grey the elder, and Henry Grey the younger, &c., to alienate to Richard Miller, and Alice his wife, and the heirs and assigns of Richard, one messuage, one garden, 150 acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, eighty of pasture, thirty of wood, and ten of furze, with the appurtenancies in Leiston and Theberton; and on the 20th of the same month, they confirmed them to the said Richard Miller, for £ 2100; together with the mansion-house and capital messuage, called Leiston Abbey.⁶ Notwithstanding these dispositions of the above-mentioned

⁴ Cole’s Esch. vol. v. p. 357.

⁵ One of these gentlemen was murdered by his wife, and Peter, their man servant, was gibbeted for the offence.—MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁶ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

premises, it appears that King James I., on the 5th of August, in the seventeenth year of his reign, had granted to George, Marquis and Earl of Buckingham, "all that the monastery and manor of Leiston, in the county of Suffolk, with the rights, members, and appurtenances, and all the rents of assize of the free and customary tenants of Thorpe, Aldringham, and Sizewell, in the said county, and all demesne lands in Leiston Hall, &c., with the issues and profits of the fair, within the said manor of Leiston; the profits of herrings; upon every barrel four shillings; the increased rent of £1. 18s. 4d. of the farm of Leiston Hall, &c.; with divers farms; the rectory of Corton, the rectory of Aldringham, with the tithes and profits; the perquisites and profits of the manor of Leiston, which monastery and manor of Leiston were of the yearly value of £114. 7s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., late parcel of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, to be held of the manor of East Greenwich in socage, under the yearly rent of £114. 7s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. payable at Michaelmas and Lady Day." By indre on the 15th November, in the 2nd of Charles I., the said Marquis, then Duke, of Buckingham, on the one part, the said Richard Miller, on the second part, and Price Williams, and Anthony Nevill, of the third part, the said Duke for £4500, bargained and sold to the said parties the manor of Leiston, &c. In the fifth of the same reign, Richard Miller, and Alice his wife, Price Williams, and Anthony Nevill, sold the same to Daniel Harvey, Eliab Harvey, and Matthew Harvey. The monastery and manor of Leiston, and all the lands sold to them by the Duke of Buckingham, the former parties, on the 20th of May, in the sixteenth of the same reign, re-sold for £5000, and thus made absolute the claim of the Harveys.⁷ Daniel Harvey, Esq., in 1666, devised all the above-mentioned premises to Daniel Harvey, who, in 1725, appears as defendant in an action respecting the royalties of his manor of Leiston, commenced by the daughters of Thomas, Earl of Strafford, as owners of the lordship of Aldborough.⁸

15 June, 1725, }
Bill filed. } Peter Lord King, Baron Oakham, Chancellor.

Inter Dⁿⁱ Annam Wentworth,
Dⁿⁱ Luceam Wentworth, et
Dⁿⁱ Herriott Wentworth, Infan^t. } Honorabil^e Daniel^e Harvey, Def^t.
p^r. Thomam Comitem Strafford.

Querent.

1. Bill filed 15 June, 1725, sets forth that Plt^s. are daughters of Thomas, Earl of Strafford, and that Sir Harry Johnson, Knt., being seised in fee of the manor and lordship of Aldborough, als Albrough, in Com. Suff., and of all the lands, messes, wastes and comons, royalties, &c., thereto belonging, by his last

⁷ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

⁸ A similar law-suit was entertained at a period shortly subsequent by the lord of the manor of Knoddishall, in which he was nonsuited, and compelled to pay the costs.—See Knoddishall.

will, dated 19 March, 1718, gave and devised the said manor, &c., to trees and their heirs upon the trusts therein men^d., viz. To the trees, their exors, &c. for 500 years, to be computed from Sir Henry Johnson's death for his remain^r. to the 2, 3, and every other son of the s^d. Earl & Countess in tail male. Rem^r. to Plt^s. Ann and Lucy and all other daughters of the s^d. Earl & Countess.

That the said Earl & Countess have only one son, and no younger son, and have only three daughters, the Plt^s.—w^{ch}. Herriott being born since s^d. Henry Johnson's death,—so that Plt^s. are by virtue of s^d. will intituled to the s^d. manor and premises, subject to said five hundred years term.

2. That the manor, lands, wastes, &c. belonging, adjoin to the manor of Leeston, belonging to Def^t., and both said manors border on the sea, and said manors, lands, wastes, &c. have time immemorially been bounded and divided from each other by a haven, river or creek, running between them in its channel into the sea, and to which channel and no further said manor and lands extend; and Defendant has no right to any grounds, wastes, &c. beyond said channel afs^d. ancient river, creek or haven.

3. That by high tides, storms and floods, &c. said antient channel has of late years been choaked, and said river, creek or haven has for a few years last past and now does run and take its channel about a mile or other great distance further into the manor of Aldborough, from the place where the antient channel has immemorially used to run; and Defendant, taking advantage thereof, pretends that said manor of Leeston and the wastes, &c. thereto belonging extend to the present channel of the s^d. river, creek or haven, and insists that he is intituled to all the wastes and grounds, &c. that lye on that side the present channel that is next to the said manor of Leeston as part of the said manor, and has set up a post or other mark near the present channel denoting his claim and pretence of title to all the ground on that side the channel next the said manor, and has done so to perpetuate some remembrance of his pretended title; and gives out that when the Plt^s. witnesses (who are antient) that can prove where the s^d. river, creek or haven antiently run, and how far said manor of Leiston really extends, are dead, then Defendant will prosecute his intended title to the grounds, wastes, &c. between the antient and the present channel, and for all other grounds that shall hereafter be on that side the antient channel next the said manor of Leiston, if the s^d. river, creek or haven shall remove or cut still further into Plaintiffs' manor of Aldborough.

That sometimes Defendant gives out that he is but tenant for years or life, and if Plt^s. sh^d. examine witnesses to establish their right to all the wastes on that side the antient channel next the manor of Aldborough against Defendant, yet it will not be conclusive to those who come after him, whose names and places of abode he refuses to discover; so that Plaintiffs are in danger of losing their right or being involved in multiplicity of suits, &c.

Therefore that Defendant may answer, &c., and that Plt^s. may be at liberty to examine witnesses in perpetuam suis manoriam, to prove abuttals and boundaries, &c.

1. Defendant's answer admits 1, for ought he knows to the contrary.

2. Says said manor and lands adjoin to manor of Def^t., called Leiston manor, of which Defendant is advised he is seised in his demesne as of fee, and never pretended he had any lost estate therein; says both the said manors lye together and border upon the sea, and knows not but that both the said manors and lands, &c. belonging, have time immemorially been bounded and divided by a haven, river or creek, running between them in its antient channel into the sea, and that to this antient channel and no further for what Defendant knows the said manors and lands do reciprocally extend; says he has no right nor pretends any right to any grounds beyond said antient channel.

3. Believes that by high tides, &c. the ancient channel of the said river has been stopped up and the channel often varied, were within this Defendant's remembrance, and that the alterations of the said

channel hath turned much to the disadvantage of Def^t., and his manor, Def^t. having lost ground thereby, and the said water breaking in further and further upon Deft^s. manor, and not upon Plt^s. manor, but how much exactly said channel has altered its antient course can't say ; but believes not near what charged by the Plt^s. ; says about fifteen years ago, by advice of several very old persons then living, very well knew and were acquainted with the boundaries of both the s^d. manors, erected and set up a post in the ground as the boundary of Deft^s. manor ; says the post was set up over against the wall of Captain Elliot, which was always taken to be the antient mark where the old channel formerly was, and this was never disputed by Sir Henry Johnson or any body else till lately by the Plt^s. ; says the post lately set up by the Plt^s. or their order, as limiting the boundaries of the manor of Aldborough, is as Defendant is credibly informed, and doubts not but to prove, placed nearer to defend the manor than formerly it was, and not where the old haven was, as where the water stream antiently run divides, &c.

It appears from the evidence that the manor of Aldborough extends into the parish of Aldborough and hamlet of Haselwood, and the manor of Leiston into the parishes of Leiston, Thiberton, Aldringham, Thorpe, and the manor of Sisewell.

That the manors adjoin each other from or near a place called Coldfair green, in the parish of Leiston, to the sea, about three miles in length, and that the Hundred river is the boundary or division of the said manor to Captain Elliot's wall, and from thence are divided by a creek which runs to the haven adjoining to the sea, near the haven, with about two rods northward of a post set down some years since ; and that the place where the post is set down is the same place from whence the stump of an old post was taken up, called Edward Harvey's post.

For the Plt^s.—That the parish of Aldborough is divided from the parish of Thorpe by the south pt. of Clockwill's in a direct line to the sea side. That the haven w^{ch}. bounded the manors lye about a quarter of a mile southward of Clockwill. That the haven had been stopped up about 40 years, and that there since had been another haven midway between Aldburgh and Thorpe parishes, also called Thorpe Haven, which was about half a mile southward of old Thorpe Haven, and that the new haven lies about half a mile more southward into Aldborough manor than the old one.⁹

Leiston manor is divided on the south from the manor of Aldborough by a place called Thorpe Haven, which is the mouth of a river or creek generally called the Hundred river or stream, by reason of its dividing the Hundreds of Plomesgatt and Blithing. But it is in fact the river Alde, which takes its rise at Aldringham about miles up the country, giving name to that town, and also to Thorpe, which is only an hamlet to Aldringham. This river was formerly much deeper and broader than at present, for within the memory of man vessels could pass up and down it, but by length of time and high tides, it is

now, and has been several years, almost totally choaked up with sand. It appears by a Record 1286. 14 E. 1. That the lord of Leiston manor had wreck of the sea from Mismere Haven to Thorpe

Haven, which in the record is called Portus de Aldemuth, which, importing to be the haven at the mouth of the Ode, must be the same now called Thorpe Haven. This Record is now remaining amongst the Quo Warranto Rolls in the Chapter Office at Westm^r., and by which it appears, &c. (see Record.)

States the 27 H. 8, and that the abbey and manor came into the King's hands.

Lres patent 27 Ap. 28 H. 8. Grant to Charles Brandon : upon his attainder¹⁰, the manor reverted to the Crown. 5 Aug. 17 Jas. Grant to the Marquis of Bucks.

⁹ From the briefs in Mr. Robt. Reve's possession.

¹⁰ Charles Brandon was not attainted ; it came to the hands of the Crown by exchange.

In 1620. At the first court held for the manor by the Marquis of Bucks, a survey was taken of the manor by thirty-six of the jury, which survey is entered in a book kept amongst the court-rolls of the manor, and expresses that the surveyors began their perambulation at East Bridge (vide the plan), which is a bridge over a brooke or streame running to Mismere Haven; that they followed the brooke, having the manor on the right, untill they came to the most northerly end of Sisewell shoal at the sea side, and from thence went after the sea to Sisewell Beacon, and from the same beacon still southward after the sea side to a place called Sea Fell, where the town of Sisewell & Thorpe divide at the fee-farm land of Thorpe, & so from the said place still following the sea till they came to Thorpe Beacon, going between the sea and Thorpe town, turning toward the west after the old ditch that includeth Thorpe fee-farm till they came to Thorpe fens, where the brook divideth between Thorpe and Haselwood, and then their peregrination is described to the west & north-west until by their circuit they came again to East Bridge, whence they set out.

At the next court held by the Marquis, 17 Ap. 1621, the jury made 19 several presentments for wreck taken *infra feodum manerii* both at Sisewell & Thorpe.

In 1697. Action brought by Dan^l. Harvey, Esq., agst. Burleigh & others. Trespass for taking wreck at Sisewell, and tried before Lord Chief Justice Holt, at the Lent Assizes, 1697. Verdict for the Pl^t.

Rent paid to the lord of Leiston for fishing in Thorpe Meer or Haven.

And recites suit between the Wentworths and Harvey, and the evidence then taken.

A SURVEY

of all the lands and tents of the manor of Leiston, with the members thereof, viz. Aldringham, Thorpe, Sisewell, Knodishall, Teberton & Middleton, made at a court there of Leete Baron and Survey holden by the Right Noble George, Marquis Buckingham, the 24 day of April, in the 18 year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James the first, &c. 1620.

My Lord's officers for the service of this court were —

Sir Nicholas Salter, Knt., high Steward of the same.

W^m. Buckingham, Gent., under Steward.

Richard Banks, Gent., Surveyor.

Thomas Luske, Gent., Bayliff of the said manor.

The Homages serving upon the said Survey to shew the land :

For Leiston & Sisewell.

Arnold Damford.
Jonas Blomfield.
Bachalor Hewson.
Faynor Gentrice.
William Gentrice.
Jacob Burrell.
Robert Sharpe.
Francis Camon.
Robert Glover.

Aldringham & Thorpe.

Richard Spiere.
Henry Clarke.
John Mellock.
Henry Turner.
Rob^t. Mills.
Larance Hills.
Henry Palmer.
John Parker.
John Beale.
Henry Fauster.
Andrew Hastridge.

Kelsall & Middleton.

Zach. Storke.
 George Farmer.
 George Antlebee.
 William Ramols.
 Willm Thompson, Gent.
 Henry Mills.

Teberton.

Robt. Beare.
 Thomas London.
 Tho^s. Cressn als^r Hox^r.
 Tho^s. Keive.
 Tho^s. Wiggon.
 John Donnets.
 W^m. Groome.

Knedishall & Buxloe.

Thomas Frank.
 Henry Moreleing.
 Robt. Alcocke.

Now followeth the Perambulation, viz. Leyston, Sizwell, Aldringham, and Thorpe; and here note that th'other members of this manor, they being but parts of other members, could not be perambulated, the land lying so dispersed.

First therefore beginning this perambulation at the Est Bridge, leaving the manor on the right hand going after the Brooke eastward, including all the Lady Old Abbey, untill you come to the most northerly end of Syswell shole at the sea side, and from thence going southward after the sea and Syswell shole, untill you come unto Syswell Beacon, and from the same beacon going still southward after the sea side untill you come unto a place called Sea Fell, where the town of Syzwell and Thorpe divide at the fee-farm land of Thorpe, and soe from the said place called the Sea Fell, still following the sea untill you come unto Thorpe Beacon, and from the same beacon going between the sea and Thorpe towne towards the west, after the old ditch that includeth Thorpe fee-farm untill you come unto Thorpe fens, where the brooke divideth between Thorpe and Haselwood manors, and soe following that brooke between Thorpe and Haselwood manor untill you come unto Friday Market Heath, and then leaving the water course following the hedge south-west untill you come unto a green way beyond the Jebott, and so following that way north-west over the heath untill you come unto a tenement called Dearing's, which lyeth in Knoddishall, excluding the same tenement on the left hand going between the heath and inclosiers untill you come unto a cross at St. Andrewes Green, which is made between the manor of Leiston and Knodeshall, and from that cross turning up northward between the copyhold lands called Owen's and Feriby's, and so along cross land and Stable Croft, being the copyhold land of Smith's, including the same, and so along Owen's Grove, excluding the same untill you come to the north corner of Stable Croft, and then throwe Owen's Grove, leaving part thereof on the north and part on the south, untill you come unto the south corner of Devonshire Wood, and so following the same wood, including the same, unto the demean land called Gilbert's pictles, and from that point of Gilbert's pictles turning north after the Temmar, untill you come unto a cornered close called Stonie lands, lying in Knoddishall, excluding the same, and from thence along the way syding Buckhouse pittes, untill you come unto a gate at Long Meadow end, being a meadow of the demean, and from thence turning south-westerly after the east side of the same meadow, untill you come unto the south end thereof, including the same long meadow, and from thence along Cluny Wood, including the same wood, and from thence between the bounds of Knoddishall and the West House, including all the lands of the said West House, unto a way leading from Kelsall to Laiston, being called the More Lane end, and so going along a strype of Mr. Jenney's, including the same, unto Glover's house, and from thence along the green lane leading towards Teberton, being between Kellsall and Laiston, unto Moore Lane end, unto a close of George Chetlebees, and at the end of that close turne up the lane south-east, and so along that lane between Higbones and ground of the demean called the Harrow at Van's Meadow, excluding the said Van's Meadow towards the north, and from thence to east end of Horne's Grove, and from that point going south-east westward Mr. Ginnees ground unto the procession rayles, and from those rayles going northward towards Hangman's Close, along the shanks, unto a cornered close of Robt. Sharpes, at the lane side, including the same, and from thence turning after

the lane southward towards Leiston unto the first copyhold close of Arnold Damford's, and so turning after the south end of the same close between the free lands of the said Arnold Damford's and his copyhold called Hamur, unto Winter's Heath, and from thence turning after th'est end of his freehold backwards unto a meadow of the said Arnold Damford's of copyhold, syded by the lane, excluding the same, and from the north end of the s^d med. going over the land between the Abbey land and the free and copy of the said Arnold Damford's, and so going round the Abbey lands, including the same Abbey lands, unto th'est point of the s^d lands where it cometh unto the lane that leads unto East Bridge, and from that point going forwards in the lane towards th'est bridge unto the northmost part of Holeman's, and from that point turning eastward, following between the Lady Old Abbey land and the copyhold tenement of Snigers, unto the East Bridge, where the perambulation first began.¹¹

The manor of Leiston afterwards passed to the Hon. Elizabeth Montagu, daughter of Edward, Lord Viscount Hinchinbrook, and grand-daughter of the Right Hon. Lady Anne Harvey. This lady was first married to Kelland Courtenay, Esq., and secondly to William Smith, Esq., of the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden. She died on the 13th of December, 1762, and lies buried in Leiston church. By her marriage with Mr. Courtenay she left two daughters, her coheireses; one of whom married William Poyntz, Esq., who, in right of his lady, appears to have held the manor of Leiston, jointly with Miss Ann Courtenay, her sister. By "a particular of the estate," drawn up soon after the decease of their mother, it is shown that the gross rental of the estate was then £943. 16s. 6¼d. Leiston Hall—reserved to the landlord—with the adjacent farm, was then rented at £190 per annum. The Abbey Farm, with a malting-office thereon, in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Jesup—all tithe-free—produced an annual rent of £150. The tolls of St. Andrew's fair, called "Cold Fair," were estimated at 13s. 4d., while the manorial rights, communibus annis, including the annual quit-rents, producing £47. 18s. 8d., were fixed at £129. 1s. 4¼d. The royalty is stated to be "extensive, in a fine sporting country, and abounding with game. The lord is entitled to wreck of the sea, and groundage for all ships and goods, driven on shore, upon the sea-coast within the precincts of this manor, which extends about four miles in length; and is also entitled to fine for all timber taken down upon the copyhold lands, holden of the said manor."¹² From the nature of the preceding record, which states the condition of the various premises, the obligations of the tenants, and the duration of their respective leases, which they held for fourteen years, from Michaelmas, 1761, it was probably drawn out preparatory to the sale of the estate, which very shortly afterwards passed into the Vanneck family, where it has since continued, the Right Hon. Lord Huntingfield being its present possessor.

¹¹ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

¹² From original papers in the possession of W. P. Hunt, Esq., of Ipswich.

✠ *Sig. Abbatis et Convent. de Leestona.*

The Abbey at Leiston was founded in the year 1182, by Ranulph de Glanville, for the reception of White Canons, or monks of the Premonstratensian order. The original site of the house was nearly a mile eastward of those picturesque remains which crown the summit of a rising ground near the northern extremity of the parish, and which are the mouldering ruins of a second and more important establishment, erected on the same spot. By his foundation charter, Glanville endows his abbey with the manor of Leiston, which had been granted to him by Henry II., in consideration of his services as Lord Chief Justice of England, and adds to its revenue the advowsons of Aldringham and Leiston, which he had previously given to his priory at Butley, and which the monks of that house consented to relinquish. He makes the bequests for the health of the soul of King Henry the 2nd, for that of his own soul, and the soul of Bertha his wife, who was daughter of Theobald de Valoins, and for the souls of all his ancestors and successors.

Omnibus sanctæ matris ecclesiæ filiis, præsentibus et futuris, Ranulfus de Glamvillâ, salutem. Noveritis, &c.,—me dedisse et concessisse Deo, et ecclesiæ in honore beatæ Mariæ apud Leestune constructæ, et canonicis ordinis Præmonstratensis, professis, ibidem Deo servientibus, ad abbatiam ibidem construendam, ad ministrandum ibidem imperpetuum, totum manerium de Leestune possidendum in liberâ et purâ, et perpetuâ elemosinâ, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis. Et cum ecclesiâ beatæ Margaretæ de Leestune, et cum ecclesiâ S. Andreae de Aldringham; quas ecclesias prius dederam canonicis de Buttele, unde ipsi habent cartam meam et confirmationem domini mei Henrici regis secundi, quas ipsi canonici de Buttele resignaverunt ipsis canonicis de Leestune, coram domino Johanne Norwicensi episcopo, et coram me, et Walkelino archidiacono, et Galfrido capellano, Huberto Walteri, magistro Renerio de Hecham, et magistro Roberto de Waxtone, et Jordano de Ros, et magistro Lamberto, et Simone de Scales, et magistro Waltero de Calnâ, et Rogero de Glamvillâ; et Osberto et Gerardo; et Galfrido filio Petri, et Alano de Valeines, et aliis multis. Quod manerium venerabilis dominus meus rex Anglorum Henricus secundus mihi dedit pro servicio meo. Quando autem eosdem

canonicos ibidem fundavi, concesserunt, et in veritate promiserunt, quod nullam terram ement vel in vadium, vel ad firmam, vel aliquo alio modo recipient, nisi quæ eis grata collata fuerint in liberâ elemosinâ : et quod non capient, vel auferrent ab aliquo hominum, qui tunc temporis, quando eos ibidem fundavi in eadem villâ manserunt, vel à successoribus suis aliquid de aliquo tenementorum suorum, quod tunc temporis tenuerunt ; sed omnia tenementa sua, eis et successoribus eorum pertinentia, tenere benè et in pace, per servicia ad ipsa tenementa sua pertinentia. Hanc autem donationem feci eis, pro salute memorati domini mei illustris regis Henrici, et pro salute animæ meæ, et Berthæ uxoris meæ, et omnium antecessorum et successorum nostrorum. Quare volo et concedo, quod præfati canonici, totum præfatum manerium de Leestune, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, et cum præfatis ecclesiis, habeant et teneant in liberâ et purâ et perpetuâ elemosinâ, benè et in pace, liberè et quietè, et integrè, et honorificè, et plenariè ; in boscis et plano ; in pratis et pascuis ; in stagnis et molendinis ; et piscariis, et turbariis, et mariscis, et juncariis ; in viis et semitis, et omnibus aliis locis, et aliis rebus, cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ad ipsum manerium pertinentibus. Testibus hiis, Johanne filio domini regis, Willielmo de Aubevill, Radulfo de Ardene, Rogero de Glamvillâ, Osberto de Glamvillâ, Willielmo de Valeines, Radulfo Murdac, Ranulfo de Gedinge, Alardo filio Willielmi, Teobaldo Walteri, Ricardo Malebise, Willielmo de Basingeham, Rogero Walteri, Willielmo filio Willielmi de Aubevill, Thomâ de Ardene.

R. Abbot of Leiston, who appears to have been the first principal of his house, conceded to the prior of Butley, by the consent of his monks, all his rights in the church of Knoddishall, in return probably for the acquisition of the tithes of Leiston and Aldringham. This concession was confirmed by Philip, the succeeding Abbot. Roger de Glanville granted to the abbey of Leiston the church of Middleton, and William de Valoines that of St. Botolph at Culpho. In addition to these revenues, the abbey in succession obtained the appropriate tithes, or portions, in the churches of Corton, Theberton, and Kettleburgh, with the chapel of Sizewell, and the manors of Darsham Abbot's, Pettaugh, Laxfield, Middleton Abbot's, and Glevering Hall, in Hacheson, with a mill there, and a rabbit-warren in Leiston. The following is a list of the various benefactors to this house.

Roger de Glanvil.
 Roger Bigot, Earl of Norfolk.
 William de Valoines.
 William de Verdune, and Matilda his wife.
 Sir Gilbert Peche, before 1312.
 William de Auberville, and Matilda his wife.
 Robert de Montalt.
 The Burgesses of Dunwich.
 Earl Baldwin.
 Roger de Kedney.
 Theobald de Valoines.
 Bartholomew and Robert de Dearneford.

William de Glanville.
 John, Earl of Morton.
 William, prior of Butley.
 Robert, prior of Butley.
 Robert de Crek.
 William Fitz-Alan.
 Humphrey de Criketot.
 Theobald Fitz-Walter.
 Oliver de Vaux.
 Gocilin de Hispania.
 Normannus de Peschal.
 Roger, prior of Eye.

Walter le Neve.
 Hugh de Rikinhall.
 William de Winderville.
 Martin de Beaufo.

Hugh Rufus or Rous.
 William Fitz-Alan.
 Burkard Burton.

The advowson or patronage of the abbey of Leiston descended from Ranulph de Glanville, its founder, to his daughter Maud, whose grandson sold it to Guido de Ferre, on whose death without heirs it escheated to the Crown, in the reign of Edward III.¹³ In the mean while, however, the establishment continued to increase in wealth and privileges. In the reign of Edward I. the Abbot claimed the right of wreck, market, gallows, free-warren, and the assize of bread and ale, in his manor of Leiston, as an ancient custom, and exercised the latter privilege in Middleton also.¹⁴ His tolls and customs thus levied amounted to one hundred shillings annually, and were returned as being enjoyed to the prejudice of the King and the burgesses of Dunwich. In the year 1299, the Abbot impleaded John de Leyston, and others, for trespassing upon his manor at Leiston, and driving away the hares, —the earliest prosecution for poaching, except in the Royal forests, with which the writer is acquainted.¹⁵ In the thirty-second and following year of the same reign, the Abbot leased lands in Theberton to this John de Leyston, and had eleven pounds rent from estates in Knoddishall.¹⁶ In the fourth and fifth of Edward II., he held divers messuages and lands in Theberton, Buxlow, Darsham, and Knoddishall, of the Honour of Eye, with estates in Livermere and Pettaugh. In the sixth of this King's reign, the abbot and convent obtained a confirmation of the manor of Glevering Hall, in Hacheson, with estates in "Estone, Wicham, Pechaye, Framsdune, et aliis locis," granted to them by Gilbert Peche.¹⁷ In the same year appears a charter for the holding a market and fair by the Abbot of Leiston, which he obtained again, with augmented privileges, in the eighth and ninth of the same reign.¹⁸ In 1350, the advowson of the abbey, which had escheated to the Crown by the death of Guido de Ferre without issue, was granted to Robert de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, whose munificence as a re-founder will be noticed hereafter, when we speak of the

¹³ Guido de Ferre obiit sine herede, per qd maner suum de Benhall, cum p̄tin. in Suff. una cum advoc. priorat. de Leiston, devenerunt Regi ut escaet Pat. 23 Ed. III. m. 6.

¹⁴ Rot. Hundredorum.

¹⁵ Plac. cor. Justic. de Banco. A° 27 Ed. I. rot. 30.—Tower Records. In the ninth of Edward II., 1316, John de Gourney impleaded William de Swathing respecting the right of coursing hares, &c., at Hardingham, in Norfolk. Swathing, on the Monday after the feast of St. Michael, had chased and taken 20 hares, 80 rabbits, and 100 partridges.—From 'The Record of the House of Gournay,' page 343, a work printed for private circulation by Daniel Gurney, Esq., F.S.A., the labour and research of which is only surpassed by the taste and felicity of its execution.

¹⁶ MSS. R. Sparrow, Esq.

¹⁷ Rot. Pat. 6 Ed. II.

¹⁸ Cart. 6 Ed. II. p. u. m. 51, &c.

buildings and architecture of the house. On the extinction of the Uffords, the advowson was given to their successors, the De la Poles, and again fell into the hands of the King, by the banishment of Michael De la Pole. In 1388, King Richard II. granted to this establishment an ample confirmation of all their existing rights, and added the important privilege of electing their own superior upon every future vacancy in the abbacy, without the license or assent of the Crown, or any other patron,¹⁹ with this immunity, that in the time of a vacation, neither he, nor his heirs, nor any of his other officers, should seize their temporalities, nor intermeddle with the same. Neither should any abbot of this house be ever compelled to grant any corrody or pension to any person whatsoever.²⁰

Carta Regis Ricardi, Donationem Manerii de Leystone per Radulfum de Glanvillâ in fundacione ejusdem confirmans, &c.

Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. salutem. Supplicârunt nobis dilecti nobis in Christo abbas et conventus de Leystone, ut cum tempore præclaræ memoriæ domini Henrici secundi, quondam regis Angliæ, progenitoris nostri defuncti, Radulfus Glanvylla, fundator abbatiæ prædictæ, dedisset eidem abbatiæ, in fundacionem ejusdem, manerium de Leystone in comitatu Suffolciæ, cum pertinentiis unâ cum certis ecclesiis, et aliis possessionibus. Habendum et tenendum quondam abbati et conventui loci prædicti, et successoribus suis, in liberam, puram, et perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum: ac postmodum dictus progenitor noster, donationem ipsius Radulphi, in hac parte factam, per diversas cartas suas concessisset et confirmasset præfatis nuper abbati et conventui, et successoribus suis, in liberam, puram, et perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum. Et jam ita sit, quod advocatio dictæ abbatiæ, per forisfacturam Michaelis de la Pole, nuper comitis Suffolc, qui advocacionem prædictam optinuit de dono nostro, in manum nostram devenit; velimus, ex benignâ et habundanti gratiâ nostrâ, dono dicti fundatoris, et confirmatione præfati progenitoris nostri consideratis, concedere et confirmare eisdem nunc abbati et conventui, et successoribus suis, manerium prædictum, et omnes alias possessiones dictæ fundacionis suæ: habendum et tenendum in liberam, puram, et perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum; et ulterius concedere præfatis nunc abbati et conventui, et successoribus suis imperpetuum; quod exnunc, in qualibet vacatione dictæ abbatiæ conventus loci illius, pro tempore existens, ad electionem suam convenire, et unum novum abbatem liberè eligere, et ipsum sic debitè electum in abbatem, et pastorem loci prædicti, habere et tenere possint; absque licentiâ et regio assensu nostro, vel hæredum nostrorum, aut alterius patroni dicti loci pro tempore existentis: Et insuper concedere, quod temporalia abbatiæ prædictæ, de cætero in aliquâ vacatione ejusdem in manum nostram, vel hæredum nostrorum minimè capiantur, aut seisianur; nec quod aliquis vicecomes, escaetor, aut alius officarius, ballivus, seu minister noster vel hæredum nostrorum, in

¹⁹ Pat. 12 Ric. II. p. 1, m. 19.

²⁰ 'Corrody' signifies a sum of money, or allowance of meat, drink and clothing, due to the King from an abbey, or other house of religion, whereof he was founder, towards the sustentation of such an one of his servants as he thought fit to bestow it upon. The difference between a corrody and a pension seems to be, that a corrody was allowed towards the maintenance of any of the King's servants in an abbey: a pension is given to one of the King's chaplains for his better maintenance, till he may be provided with a benefice. In the 'Monasticon' is given the form of a corrody, and in Fitz. Nat. Br. fol. 250, are set down all the corrodies and pensions that our abbeys, when they were standing, were obliged to pay to the King.—Tomlin's Law Dictionary.

aliquo se intromittat de abbathiâ prædictâ in aliquâ vacatione ejusdem, nec de temporalibus bonis et possessionibus abbatiæ antedictæ; immò, quod dictus conventus et successores sui imperpetuum omnia temporalia dictæ abbatiæ, in qualibet vacatione ejusdem in manibus suis propriis liberè et pacificè habere et tenere, et inde ad voluntatem suam, pro commodo domus prædictæ liberè disponere et ordinare possint, absque impedimento nostri vel hæredum nostrorum, justiciariorum, escaetorum, vicecomitum, aut aliorum ballivorum, seu ministrorum nostrorum, vel hæredum nostrorum quorumcunque, aut alicujus alterius patroni ejusdem abbatiæ pro tempore existentis imperpetuum. Et quod dicti nunc abbas et conventus, vel successores sui, non teneantur dare aut concedere aliquod corrodiū sive pensionem, aut aliud hujusmodi onus quodcunque in futurum, alicui personæ, ad mandatum, præceptum, vel rogatum nostrum, vel hæredum nostrorum, aut alicujus alterius patroni ejusdem loci, pro tempore existentis; sed quod ipsi et successores sui, de omnibus hujusmodi pensionibus, corrodiis, et aliis hujusmodi oneribus quieti sint et exonerati imperpetuum.

Nos precibus ipsorum nunc abbatis et conventus favorabiliter inclinati, de gratiâ nostrâ speciali, et de assensu consilii nostri, pro nobis et hæredibus nostris, quantum in nobis est, concedimus et confirmamus præfatis nunc abbati et conventui, et successoribus suis, manerium prædictum, et omnes possessiones dictæ foundationis suæ. Habendum in liberam, puram, et perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum. Volentes quod exnunc, in qualibet vacatione dictæ abbatiæ conventus loci illius, pro tempore existens, ad electionem suam licitè convenire, et unum novum abbatem et pastorem loci prædicti habere, et tenere possint, absque licentiâ, et assensu nostro regio, vel hæredum nostrorum, aut alterius patroni dicti loci, pro tempore existentis; et quod temporalia abbatiæ prædictæ de cætero in aliquâ vacatione ejusdem in manum nostram, vel hæredum nostrorum non capiantur, aut seisiantur, nec quod aliquis vicecomes, escaetor, aut alius officarius, ballivus, seu minister noster, vel hæredum nostrorum in aliquâ se intromittat de abbathiâ prædictâ, in aliquâ vacatione ejusdem, nec de temporalibus bonis et possessionibus abbatiæ antedictæ; immò, quod dictus conventus et successores sui imperpetuum omnia temporalia dictæ abbatiæ in qualibet vacatione ejusdem, nec de temporalibus bonis et possessionibus abbatiæ antedictæ; immò, quod dictus conventus et successores sui imperpetuum omnia temporalia dictæ abbatiæ in qualibet vacatione ejusdem in manibus suis propriis licitè et pacificè habere, et tenere, et indè pro commodo domus prædictæ, ad voluntatem suam, liberè disponere et ordinare possint, absque impedimento nostri vel hæredum nostrorum, justiciariorum, escaetorum, vicecomitum, aut aliorum ballivorum, seu ministrorum nostrorum quorumcunque, aut alicujus alterius patroni ejusdem loci, pro tempore existentis, imperpetuum: Et quod nunc abbas et conventus et successores sui non teneantur dare aut concedere aliquod corrodiū sive pensionem, aut aliud hujusmodi onus quodcunque, in futurum, alicui personæ ad mandatum, præceptum, vel rogatum nostrum vel hæredum nostrorum, aut cujuscunque alterius patroni ejusdem loci, pro tempore existentis; sed quod ipsi et successores sui, de omnibus hujusmodi pensionibus, corrodiis, et aliis oneribus quieti sint et exonerati imperpetuum. In cujus, &c. Teste rege apud Westm. xxvi. die Augusti.

The Abbot of Leiston was quit of custom in the burgh of Ipswich, of all things growing on his own lands, and of all things bought there for his own use. Pope Lucius also granted to the abbot and convent divers privileges,—such as not to pay tithes of their proper goods and chattels,—to celebrate mass privately in the time of a general interdict, with liberty of burial for any person not under a sentence of excommunication, who desired to be buried with them, saving the rights of those churches whence the bodies came, &c. The following is a copy of the papal charter to this

effect, with a like grant from Pope Innocent, and the assent of Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the papal charter of Celestine, extracted from the Cotton Manuscripts in the British Museum.²¹

Luci' Ep'e servus servor' D'i dilectis filijs Rob'to Abb'i Sc'e Marie de Leestun ejus q' frib' tam p'sentibz qua' futuris Regl'arem vitam p'fessis imp'petu'. Religiosam vitam eligentibz ap'licum convenit adesse p'sidium ne forte cujuslib' & tenditatis incursus aut eos a p'posito revocet. Aut robur qd' absit sacre religio'is infringat. Ea p'pt' dilectum d'no filij n'ris justis postulato'ibz clement' annuimus & p'fatam eccl'iam ur'am in qua divino mancipati estis obsequio sub beati Petri ac n'ra p'tectione suscipimus & p'sentis scripti p'ivilegio com'unimus. In p'mis siquidem statuentes ut ordo canonicus qui sc'dm d'm & b'i Augustini Regla'm atq' institu'onem p'monstraten' fr'm in eodem loco institut' e'e dinoscitur p'petuis ibide' temp'ibz inviolabili' observetur. Preterea quascumq' possessiones quecumq' bona eadem eccl'ia v'ra in presentiaru' juste & canonice possidet aut in futurum concessione pontificum largito'e Regum v'l principu' oblat'one fidelium seu alijs justis modis p'stante d'no pot'it adipisce firma vob' q' successoribz & illibata p'maneant. In quibz h' p'prijs duximus exp'menda vocabulis. Locu' ipm' in q'o p'fata eccl'ia sita est cu' om'ibz p'tinentijs suis ex dono Ran' de Glamvilla totu' maneri'u de Leestun cu' om'ibz p'tinentijs & consuetudinbz sicut ej'dem Ran' donatoris carta testatur sane noualiu' v'ro' que p'prijs manibz aut sumptibz colitis sive de nufimentis animalu' v'ro' nullus a vobis decimas exig'e v'l extorquere presumat. Liceat quoq' vob' clericos v'l laicos e' sel'o fugientes lib'os & absolutos ad conv'sione' v'ram recip'e & eos in monasterio v'ro sine contradictione qualib' & retinere. Prohibem' insup' ut nulli fratriu' v'ro' post f'cam in loco v'ro p'fession'e fas sit absq' Ab'bis sui licentia de claustr'o v'ro discedere. Discent'e v'o sine com'unu't li'arum caut'o'e retinere. Cum an' gen'ale int'dictum t're fu'it. Liceat vob' clausis januis exclusis excommunicatis & int'dictis n' pulsatis ca'panis submissa voce divina officia celebrare Paci quoq' & tranquillitati v're pat'na sollicitudine p'videre volentes auctoritate ap'lica constituim' ut nullus infra ambitu' locor' seu g'ngiaru' v'rarum furtu' v'l rapinam com'ittere violentiam fac'e igne' appone' seu homine' cap'e v'l int'ficere audeat obeunte v'o te nunc ej'dem loci Abbe' v'l tuor' quolibz successor' null' ibi qualibz subrept'onis astucia seu violentia p'ponatur n' que' fr'es com'uni consensu v'l fratriu' maior pars consilij sanioris sc'dm d'i timore' & beati Augustini regulam p'viderint eligendu'. Sepulturam quoq' ip'i' loci li'bam e'e concedim' ut eor' devo'oi & extrem' voluntati qui se illic sepiliri delib'av'int nisi forte excommunicari v'l int'dicti sint nullus obsistat. Salva t'n justicia illaru' eccl'iaru' a quibz mortuor' corp'a assumu'tur Decnim' g'o ut nulli om'ino hominu' liceat p'fata eccl'iam v'ram tem'e p'tubare au' ej' possessiones auferre v'l ablatas retinere minuere seu quibuslibz vexat'onibz fatigare s' om'ia integ'a conservent' eor' p' quor' gub'nato'e ac sustentato'e concessa sunt usibz om'imodis pro futura salva sedis apostolice auctoritate & diocesam ep'i canonica justicia. Si q'a g'i in futuru' ecclesiastica secularis ve p'sona hanc n're j'stitu'onis paginam sciens contra eam tem'e venire ce'ptav'it sc'do t'tio ve co'monita n' reatu' suu' digna satisfactio'e correxit potestatis honoris q' sui dignitate careat reamq' se divino judit'o existere de p'petrata iniquitate cognoscat & a sacratissimo corp'e & sanguine d'i & d'm redemptoris n'ri Jh'u X'pi aliena fiat ac q' in extremo examine divine ultim' subjaceat cunctis aut'e eidem loco sua jura servantibz sit pax d'ni n'ri Jh'u X'pi quatin' & hic fructum bone actiones p'cipiant & apud districtum indicem p'mia ef'ne pacis inveniant. Amen.

Privileg' Innocentij Pape.

Innocenti' Ep'e servus servor' D'i ven'abilibus fr'ibz Arc'hep'is Ep'is & dilectis filijs Abb'ibz Prioribz & cef'is Eccl'iarum p'latis ad quos lit'e iste p'ven'it Salt' & Ap'lica b'ndictione. Non absq' dolore cordis,

²¹ MSS. Cott. Vesp. E. xiv. fol. 1, *et seq.*

& p̄lima turbatoẽ didicim' quod ita in p̄lisq̄ partibz eccl̄astica censura dissolvit' & canouice sententie sev̄itas en̄vat' ut viri religiosi & hij maxime qui p̄sedis ap̄lice privilegia maiori donati sunt libertate passim á malefactoribz suis injurias sustineant & rapinas dũ vix invenit' qui congrua illis p̄tectione subveniat & p̄ fovenda paup̄um innocentia murũ se defensionis opponat. Special̄r autẽ dilecti filij Abb̄as & convent' de Leestun' p̄monstratensis ordinis tam de frequentibz injurijs q̄m de ip̄o cotidiano defectu justicie conquerentes, univ̄sitate v̄ram p̄ litt̄as petierũt ap̄licas excitari ut ita videlicet eis in tribulationibus suis contra malefactores eor. p̄mpta debeatis magnanimitate' surgere, q̄d ab augustijs quas sustinet & p̄ssuris v̄ro possint p̄sidio respirare. Ideo q̄ universitati v̄re p̄ ap̄lica scripta mandam' atq̄ p̄cipim' quatinus illos qui in aliq̄m de p̄dictis fr̄ibz instigante diabolo man' violentas iniec̄int sive possessiones v̄l res seu domos eor. v̄l hominum suor. irrev̄ent' invaserint aut ea que p̄dictis fr̄ibz é testamento decedentiũ relinquivit c̄otra justiciam detinuerint seu in ip̄os fratres contra ap̄lice sedis industria sententiam excõicationis aut dicti p̄ferre p̄sumperint v̄l decimas labor. seu nutrimentor. suor. sp̄tis p̄vilegijs ap̄lice sedis extorserint si Laici fuerint publice candes' accensis excoicationis sententia p̄cellatis Clericos aut canonicos sive monachos appell̄one remota ab officio & b̄nficio suspendatis neutram relaxaturi sententiam donec p̄dictis fr̄ibz plenarie satisfactiant & hij p̄cipue qui p̄ violenta in annũ inieciõẽ vinc̄lo fuerint anathematis innodaticũ dyocesam Ep̄i lit̄is ad sedem ap̄licam venientes ab eodẽ vinc̄lo mereant' absolvi nisi forte monachi v̄l canonici reḡlares p̄ Abb̄es v̄l Priores suos p' satisfactionẽ congruam scd̄m ordinis disciplinam fuerint absoluti villas autẽ in quibz bona p̄dictor' fr̄m seu hominũ suor. p̄ violentiam detenta fuerint quã diu ibi sunt inf̄dicti sententie supponatis. Dat' Lat' k̄l Jun' Pont' nr̄i Anno Sc̄do.

Hub' D̄i Gra' Cant' Arch' Toti' Anglie Primas. Om̄ibz sc̄e matris eccl̄ie filijs p̄ p̄vinciam Cant' cõstitutis eternam in d̄no Salt'. Ad com̄unẽ om̄iũ noticiam volum' p̄venire nos p̄vilegia dil̄cor. filior. nr̄or. canonicor. de Leestun a ven̄abili & Sc̄ssimo fr̄e nr̄o E. sum̄o pontif̄ce eis indulta. In hec v̄ba inspexisse Celestinus Ep̄c̄ s̄vus s̄vor. d̄i Dil̄cis filijs Rob̄to Abb̄i Monast̄ij Sc̄e Marie de insula de Leestun ej' q̄ fr̄ibz tam p̄sentibz q̄m futuris reḡlare vitam p̄fessis in p̄ptuum religiosam vitam eligentibz ap̄licũ convenit ad eẽ p̄sidium ne forte cujuslib' tem̄itatis incursus aut eos a p̄posito revocet au robur q̄d alsit' sacre religionis infringat. Ea p̄pt' dil̄ci in D̄no filij v̄ris justis postulac̄onibz clem̄ter annuim' & p̄fatũ monasterium v̄rm in quo divino mancipati estis obsequio ad exemplar felicitis recordationis Lucij pape p̄decessoris nr̄i sub b̄i Petri & nr̄a p̄tectione suscepimus & p̄sentis scripti p̄vilegio com̄unimus. In p̄imis siquidem statuantes ut ordo canonic' qui scd̄m d̄m & b̄i Augustini regula' atq̄ instituc̄onem premonstrat' fr̄um in eodẽ loco institut' eẽ dinoscitur p̄pelius ibide' temp̄ibz inviolabil̄r observetur Pref̄ea quascumq̄ possessiones quecumq̄ bona ibide' monasteriũ v̄rm in p̄sentiarũ juste & canonicè possidet aut in futurũ 'cessione pontificũ Largitõẽ Regũ v̄l p̄ncipum oblatõẽ fidelium seu alijs justis mod' p̄stante d̄no pot̄it adipisci firma vob' v̄ris q̄ successoribz & illibata p̄maneant. In quibz hoc p̄prijs duxim' exp̄menda vocabulis videlicet locum ipm̄ in quo p̄fatum monasteriũ v̄rm situ' est cũ om̄ibz p̄tinentijs suis ex dono Ranulfi de Glamvill totũ man̄ium de Leestun cũ om̄ibz p̄tinentijs suis & consuetudinibz. Ita plene & lib̄e sicut ej'dem Ranulfi donatoris carta exinde cõfecta testatur. Statuim' p̄terea & p̄sentis p̄vilegij pagina p̄hibem' ut de laboribz quos p̄piis manibz aut sumptibz colitis tam in v̄ris antiquit' cultis q̄m in novalibz sive de nutrimentis animaliu' utor. n̄lls a vob' decimas exigẽ v̄l extorquere p̄sumat prohibem' & ut nullus vos v̄l fr̄es v̄ros ad cõcilia. Synodos aut aliquos forenses cõvent' ire compellat. Nec ad domos v̄ras accedat causa ordines celebrandi. Crisma faciendi causas tractandi aut aliquos publicos cõventus convocandi paci quoq̄ & tranquillitati v̄re p̄videre volentes districtius p̄hibem' ne quis vos ad sc̄laria juditia p̄vocet. Sz siquis si putav̄it aliquid in vos de jure cõpẽẽ sub eccl̄iastico iudice exp̄endi h̄at facultatem. In causis autẽ p̄prijs sive civile' sive c̄iminales

Assens' Hub.
Cant' Arch' de
p̄vileg' Celest.
pp.

tineant questionē liceat vob̄ fr̄um v̄ror quos ad hoc idoneos ēē constiterit testimonijs ne ex defectu testium jus v̄rm valeat dep̄ire. Qd. siquis in aliq̄m de familia v̄ra donec in faml̄atu v̄ro p̄manserit p̄pt̄ detent̄onem decimarū v̄l aliquid aliud a sede ap̄lica ordini v̄ro cōcessum excōicati's v̄l int̄dicti sententia p̄mulgav̄it Licea vōb̄ eos absol̄ve & in metu mortis eccl̄iastica sacram̄ta cū sepultura conferre. Indulgem' & ut liceat vob̄ cl̄icos & laicos e secto fugientis lib̄os & absolutos ad cōv̄sationem v̄ram recip̄e & eos in consortio v̄ro sine 'dictiōe qualibz retinere. Prohibem' insup̄ ut n̄lli fr̄um v̄ror p̄f̄cam in loco v̄ro p̄fessionē fas sit absq̄ abbatis sui licentia de claustro v̄ro discedere discedentē v̄o sine 'muniū Litterarū cautioē n̄llus audeat retinere. Inhibem' quoq̄ ne cui Legato nisi a Lat̄e n̄ro directo v̄l Arc̄hiepo Ep̄o Archidiacono. Decano seu alicui Eccl̄iastico p̄lato liceat vos aut cl̄icos n̄ros in p̄curatōe hospicij honerare v̄l absq̄ cause cognit̄oe & ordine iudiciario monasterium v̄rm int̄dicto subicere. Aut in vos aut cl̄icos v̄ros degradationis excōicationis suspensionis v̄l int̄dicti sententiam promulgare ut autē comodi' tam v̄ras quam paup̄um indigentias sustentare & op̄ibz et hilarit̄ possitis deservire solita sedis ap̄lice pietati inducti vob̄ indulgem' vt siquis eccl̄iar' patron' jus q̄d in eccl̄us seu capellis h̄t vob̄ cōferre volūit suscepta ab Ep̄o institut̄oe v̄l ab eo qui jus instituendi h̄t liceat vob̄ auctoritate ap̄lica tam ip̄os eccl̄ias & capellas quas in futurū p̄stante d̄no adipisci pot̄itis q̄am eas quas in p̄sentiarum canonice adepti estis cū eas vacare 'tiḡit. Absq̄ cujuslibz conf̄dictiōe & impedim̄to in manu v̄ra tenere. Et earundē omnimodas obv̄conēs & b̄nficia ad sustentationem fr̄um hospitū ac p̄aup̄um in p̄p̄os usus conv̄tere salvis diocesano ep̄o synodalibus ad hec auctoritate ap̄lica vob̄ indulgemus ut t̄ras possessiones & decimas de jure & d̄nio monast̄ij v̄ri ab aliquibz possessas nōie pignoris recipiendi lib̄am facultatē habeatis ne ip̄i monast̄io culpa possint detinentiū dep̄ire si eas p̄ aliq̄e cont̄actum alienis contingat obligari statuim' p̄t̄ea & p̄sentis scripti pagina p̄hibemus ut n̄llus qui t̄ias v̄l possessiones quas de monast̄io v̄ro ten & alij monasterio eccl̄ie seu loco religioso eas possit sine assensu v̄ro invita v̄l in morte cōferre sive a v̄ro d̄nio quoq̄ modo alienare. Et siquis infra ambitū monast̄ij v̄ri seu grangiarū furcū v̄l sacrilegiū fec̄it ignē apposuerit san̄gnē fud̄it p̄sonam quamlibz ausu tem̄ario leserit aut violentas manus in eam in iec̄it. Si canonice cōmonit' juxta abb̄is aut p̄oris arbitriū voluerit emendare excōicatiōis sententia innodetur & sic excom̄unicat' evitand̄ denunciēt quousq̄ ip̄i ven̄abili condignam satisfactionē exhibuit cū aū gen̄ale int̄dictū t̄re sive Ep̄atus fūit liceat vob̄ ian̄ius clausis exclusis excōicati's & int̄dictis n̄ pulsatis campanis submissa voce divina officia celebr̄e. sepultura quoq̄ ip̄i loci lib̄am ēē concedimus ut eor. devotiōe & ex̄tremē voluntati, qui se illic sepeliri delib̄av̄int nisi forte excōicati v̄l int̄dicti sunt, nullus obsistat salva tū justitia eccl̄iarū illarum á quibz mortuor corp̄a assumunt obeunte v̄o te nunc ejusdē loci abb̄e v̄l tuor. quolibz successor. nullus ibi q̄alibz surreptōis astutia v̄l violentia p̄ponatur nisi quē fr̄s com̄uni consensu v̄l pars fr̄um consilij sanioris sc̄dm d̄i timorē & b̄ati Augustini regl̄am p̄vid̄int eligendū Habentes n̄c & futuris temp̄ibz lib̄am Abb̄is v̄ri electionē Apl̄ice sedis p̄vilegio roboratā Porro n̄lla p̄sona eccl̄iastica v̄l s̄claris conventū v̄rm Abb̄is sede vacante vir pediat. quo mur' de rebus & possessionibz suis disponendi sc̄dm d̄m lib̄am h̄ant facultatē auctoritate quoq̄ vob̄ ap̄lica indulgem' quociens necessitate ingruente putantes vos in vob̄ aut in̄uris gravari ad Romanam eccl̄iam dux̄itis appellandū lib̄e vob̄ liceat eandē aplicam sedem adire Quod siquis ausu tem̄ario vos impedire p̄sumps̄it hoc in p̄icl̄m ordinis honoris & beneficij sui nov̄ redundandū Lib̄tates quoq̄ & immunitates vob̄ p̄vilegijs Romanor. pontificū seu cartis regū aut alior. rōnabil̄r confirmatas nll̄s impedire p̄sumat sz eas pp̄etuu' robur optinere sanccim' Dec̄nim' ḡo ut n̄lli om̄ino hominū liceat p̄fatu' monast̄ium v̄rm tem̄e p̄turbare aut ej' possessiōes auferre v̄l ablatas retin̄e minuere seu quibzlibz vexāconibz fatigare sz om̄ia inteḡa conservent̄ eor. p̄ quor. gub̄nat̄oe ac sustentac̄oe concessa sunt usibz om̄i p̄futura salva in om̄ibz ap̄lice sedis auctoritate & Diocesam sp̄i canonica justitia si q̄a ḡi in fut̄um eccl̄iastica sel̄aris ve p̄a hanc n̄re constituōis pagina sciens con̄a eam tem̄e venire temptav̄it sedo' f̄cio ve com̄oneta n̄i reatu' suū cōnga satisfactiōe correx̄it potestatis honorisq̄ sui careat dignitate reamq̄ se divino iud̄ito exist̄e de pp̄et̄a virḡitate cognoscant. Et a s̄ctissimo corp̄e ac

sang¹ne di¹ ac d¹ni redemptoris n¹ri Ih¹u X¹pi aliena fiat atq¹ in extremo exa¹mie dist¹cte ult¹ni subjaceat cunctis au¹ eid¹ loco sua jura s¹vantibz sit pax d¹ni n¹ri Ih¹u X¹pi q¹tin' & hic fructu¹ bone actio¹is p¹cipiant & apd¹ districtu¹ judice¹ p¹mia ef¹ne pacis inveniant Amen. Nos g¹ hanc sac¹m p¹dicti s¹cissimi patris n¹ri pagina¹ cu¹ su¹ma & debita ue¹riatoe¹ amplectentes constitutoi ip¹i in hac p¹te pie & ra¹onabil¹r facte qantu¹ in nob¹ est filiat¹i favore & devoto assensu accurrim' & ei debita¹ re¹v¹entiam sic¹ decet nos in pp¹etuu¹ exhibituros p¹mittim' ven¹abiles fr¹es & coep¹os n¹ros univ¹sos & singl¹os om¹s q¹ s¹c¹e matis eccl¹ie filios ad quos p¹sens sc¹ptu¹ p¹ven¹it cu¹ su¹ma instancia exorantes & attentius monentes & exhorantes quatin' p¹ re¹v¹entia & obedientia q¹a romane sedi sunt obligati om¹ia que in hac ap¹lica pagina continentur ut ex p¹fessi oe sua tenent¹ inviolabilit¹ & inp¹etuu¹ tenere studeant & observar.

Honorius Ep¹s s¹vus s¹vor. dei dilectis filiis abbati & conventui de Leeston sal¹ & ap¹licam ben¹. Justis petencium desiderijs dignum est nos facilem prebere consensu¹ & vota que a rationis tranc¹oe non discordant effectu prosequente complere Ex prop¹t¹ dilecti in d¹no filii n¹ris justis precibz inclinati personas & monasterium v¹rm cum om¹ibz que in presenciar. racionabil¹r possidet aut in futurum justas modis prestante d¹no po¹it adipisci sub beati Petri et n¹ra protectione suscipimus specialiter a¹ut s¹ce Margarete de Leyston S¹ci Andree de Alringheam S¹ce Marie de Middleton & S¹ci Botulphi de Culpho Eccl¹ias cum ear. p¹tinecijs nec non possessiones nemora prata & alia bona v¹ra sicut ea omnia just¹e canonice ac pacifice possidetis nob¹ & p¹ nos eid¹ monas¹io v¹ro auctoritate ap¹lica confirmamus & presentis sc¹pti pa¹ocinio com¹unimus. Nulli ergo om¹ino homin¹u liceat ha¹c pagina¹ n¹re protectionis & confirma¹ois infringere vel ei ausu temerario contraire siq¹s hoc attemptare presumpserit in dignaco¹ni omnipotentis dei et beator. Pet¹ & Pauli ap¹lorum ej¹ se nov¹it incursur. Daf¹ Laf¹an x. k¹l. Julij pontificat¹ n¹ri anno octavo.

Henry Fayer, of Sudbourne, by his will, dated February 18th, 1500, desires that Robert, his son, shall have his lands in Thorpe and Aldringham, for ever, by paying to the Abbot and convent of Leiston £3. 6s. 8d., at such days of payment, as he, and the said Abbot, can agree; and the said Abbot of Leiston to dispose of the same money within the abbey of Leiston, as he shall "think mete to the pleasur of God, and the profit of his soul." Baty Cosin, widow of William Cosin, of Dunwich, left also a bequest, in 1510, to this house. "Item, I geve to the abbey of our Lady in Leyston, 10 shillings." In the reign of Henry VII. there were eighteen monks resident here, besides the abbot, but at the time of its suppression only fifteen.²² The abbey was surrendered to the Crown in the 26th of Henry VIII., when George Carleton, the last Abbot, had a pension of £20 per annum assigned him; a sum, which though equivalent, probably, to an income of £200 a year at the present day, must have been a very inadequate compensation for the relinquishment of his abbatial revenues, and the loss of his residence and personal dignities. Poor Carleton—for it may be allowed to sympathize, I trust, with his fallen fortunes, without any suspicion of a bias towards the errors of his creed—appears to have survived the wreck of his convent for several years. He was alive in 1553, though a pension said to be paid by the *late* Abbot of Leiston was confirmed to the Dean and Chapter of Norwich,

²² Willis's History of Abbeys.

by Edward VI., in the first year of his reign. At the former date, £2 per annum still remained in charge as annuities for monks not then dead.

The annual value of the possessions of this abbey, in the year 1291, when it had lands and rents in thirty parishes in Suffolk, was £96. 10s. 11¼d., according to the Taxatio Ecclesiastica; but its clear income at the Dissolution amounted to £181. 17s. 1¾d. If we multiply this sum by ten, it will produce an income of less than £2000 per annum; and it would be a matter of strict economy, if not of impossibility, to maintain so large an establishment, and so extensive a pile of buildings as Leiston Abbey, in its integral state, on such a rental. It should, however, be borne in mind that the gross valuation of this house was £210. 4s. 4¾d. The following is a copy of the return of its clear income, in the 26th of Henry VIII., when it was granted to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who afterwards exchanged the site of the abbey, and the manors, rectories and lands attached to it, with the Crown, for Henham Hall.

Monast'iu de Leyston. [MSS. Roll. Harl. coll. H. 22.]

Com [~] } Suff. }	Val ^r .	In Reddi^r assi^r s tam lib^r or. q[~] am Custum^r tenenci^r in Leyston xi^{li}. xiiij^s. ij^d. Theberton xi^{li}. vij^s. iiij^d. in Middleton iiij^{li}. xix^s. vij^d. ob. in Darsham cl^s. iiij^d. ob. Thorp lxi^s. vj^d. Sysewell lvij^s. xi^d. ob. Kelsale xxxv^s. viij^d. Knotsale & Buxlowe cij^s. v^d. ob. in Billesford lxxv^s. iiij^d. ob. Aldringham vj^{li}. ix^s. iiij^d. ob. in Brusyerd p[~] ten^r Cullyers iiij^s. Ward. castri in Darsham & Middleton xiiij^d. ob. q[~] Billesford ij^s. ij^d. q[~] novo Redd^r in Leyston vij^s. j^d. in Thorp xj^d. in Aldryngam ij^d. firm^r terr^r D^rnic in Thorp xiiij^s. iiij^d. firm^r terr^r & pastur^r vocat. Northfeld in Sysewell xl^s. firm^r div^s terr^r & pastur^r de d^rnic p[~]tem lez Westhouse cu[~] vactis p[~] daier^r x^{li}. iiij^s. iiij^d. firm^r unius claus^r vocat. Glinghams close xxx^s. firm^r cert^r p[~]celle terr^r D^rnic ib^m vj^{li}. firm^r scitus Mandij de Bilysford cu[~] prat^r past^r & pastur^r eid^m p[~]tm^r iiij^{li}. vj^s. viij^d. firm^r sci^r man^rij de Darsham cu[~] p[~]tm^r iiij^{li}. firm^r unius claus^r vocat. Heronselos xvj^s. firm^r unius claus^r vocat. Stabilclos xv^s. firm^r unius claus^r vocat. Buffehouse close, v^s. firm^r unius claus^r vocat. Gilberts close xv^s. firm^r uni^r prati in Theb^rton viij^s. firm^r unius claus^r vocat. Pighboneclose lxij^s. firm^r a^l p[~]cell^r terr^r ib^m iiij^d. firm^r uni^r p[~]cell^r terr^r in Leyston xij^d. firm^r cert^r terr^r in Darsham ij^s. vj^d. firm^r a^l terr^r ib^m xxij^d. firm^r unius ten^r in Theb^rton v^s. firm^r unius claus^r voc. Russelles close in p[~]ochia de Knodyshall & Boxlowe xl^s. firm^r cert^r terr^r & pastur^r de D^rnic x^{li}. firm^r D^rnic p[~]cell terr^r & pastur^r ac prat^r de D^rnic in man^r Abb^ris existen^r iiij^{li}. vj^d. firm^r warenn^r cuniclor. in Leyston cu[~] membr^r x^{li}. firm^r terr^r D^rnic de Leyston Hall xiiij^{li}. de p[~]cio d^ri varell^r allec^r Albi An^{ti} je^{ti} de villat de Thorp p[~] co[~]ia Hen^d sup^r Bruer d^rci Abb^ris vocat. Cundythes Heith iiij^s. Exif^r nund^m iiij^s. p[~]quis^r cur^r ib^m lxxvj^s. viij^d.	cxxxiiij ^{li} . xvij ^s . x ^d .
		In Redd^r resoluf^r Francisco Jenney Armig^o man^rio s[~] de Knodyshall xxij^d. Arthuro Hopton militi man^rio s[~] de Muryell^r v^s. & Duci Suff. Honor s[~] de Eye p[~] ward^r castri vj^s. viij^d. Et in feod^r div^s offic^r d^rco monast^rio p[~]tm^r. viz. Humfr. Wyngfeld milit. capit^rlis sen^{li}. omn^r man^rio &c. D^rco monast^rio p[~]tm^r iiij^{li}. Walteri Wodeland auditoris ib^m xl^s. Joh^ris Sone Rec. ib^m xx^s. Thome Browne al[~] Syngger Ball[~] de Leyston p[~]dict cu[~] membr^ris liij^s. iiij^d.	

Leyston cu[~] Membr^r.

Rep^rs.

x^{li}. vj^s. x^d.

Laxfeld.	Val. ^r .	{ Reddit ^r assi ^r s in Laxfeld viij ^s . in Wylby vj ^s . firm ^r terr ^r D ^r nic $\mathcal{L}$ xij ^s . v ^d }	$\mathcal{L}$ xxvij ^s . v ^d . Inde.
	Rep ^l s.	{ In Redd ^r resoluf ^r Anthonio Wyngfeld mil ^r man ^r io s ^r de Burf xv ^s . v ^d . & man ^r io s ^r de Laxfeld vij ^s . xj ^d }	xxij ^s . iij ^d .
Glarbyng.	Val.	{ In Redd ^r assi ^r s t ^r m lib ^r or. q ^r am custumar ^r tenen ^r ib ^r m xlj ^s . iij ^d . ob. q ^r Ward ^r castri q ^{to} d ^r i firm ^r terr ^r D ^r nic vij ^{li} . firm ^r molend ^r xlvj ^s . viij ^d }	xj ^{li} . viij ^s . di ^r q ^r . Inde.
	Rep ^l s.	{ In Redd ^r resoluf ^r Anthonio Wyngfeld mil ^r man ^r io suo de Letheryngham xij ^s . ij ^d . Duci Norff ^r man ^r io s ^r de Ketylbergh v ^s . viij ^d . Priorisse de Campsey man ^r io suo de Wykham ij ^s . iij ^d . Tent ^r Cavell ^r ij ^s . man ^r io de Morehall vj ^d . Et in feod ^r Ric ⁱ Hochonson Ball ^r ib ^r m vj ^s . viij ^d }	xxix ^s . iij ^d .
Pettawgh.	Val.	{ Redd ^r assi ^r s cu ^r firm. terr ^r D ^r nic xij ^{li} . Redd ^r rep ^t sup ^r examinaco ^r e Ren ^{li} ib ^r m ij ^s }	xij ^{li} . ij ^s . Inde.
	Rep ^l s.	{ In quad ^r m ante soluf ^r Georgio Nevell militi D ^r no Burgaven ^r }	x ^{li} .
Culpho.	Val.	{ Redd ^r assi ^r s in Culpho xxxvij ^s . x ^d . ob. in Tudenham xiiij ^s . x ^d . ob. Brundisburgh xv ^s . vj ^d . Wytlisham viij ^d . Playsford xij ^d . Redd ^r Mobil ^r xvj ^d . firm ^r man ^r ij de Culpho p ^r dic ^r voc. Abbtysshall cu ^r terr ^r pat ^r pasc ^r & pastur ^r eid ^r m p ^r t ^r m xlvj ^s . viij ^d }	cxvij ^s . xj ^d . Inde.
	Rep ^l s.	{ In Redd ^r resoluf ^r Joh ⁱ Jernyngham militi man ^r io suo de xvj ^d . Et. in feod. Georgij Buttrey Ball ^r ib ^r m vj ^s . viij ^d }	vij ^s .
		{ Sm ^r To ^{ls} clare valor ^r de Temp ^r alibz }	cxliij ^{li} . xvj ^s . viij ^d . d ^r i q ^r
Aldryng ^h m.	Val.	{ In Decimis Granor. oblat ^r & al ^r p ^r fic ^r eid ^r m p ^r t ^r m p ^r annu. viij ^{li} . Inde. }	vij ^{li} . xj ^s . ij ^d .
	Rep ^l s.	{ In Sinod ^r Ep ^o Norwicen ^r & p ^r curac ^r Arch ^{io} Suff. viij ^s . x ^d }	
Middelton.	Val.	{ In Decim ^r Granor. oblat ^r & al ^r p ^r fic ^r eid ^r m p ^r t ^r m p ^r an ^m . viij ^{li} . Inde. }	
	Rep ^l s.	{ In Sinodal ^r & p ^r curac ^r p ^r an ^m ix ^s . vj ^d . Et in Denar ^r soluf ^r Priori s ^c e Fidis p ^r pencoe ^r sua exeunt ^r de Ecc ^l ia ib ^r m p ^r an ^m . x ^s }	xix ^s . vj ^d . vij ^{li} . vj ^s .
Leyston.	Val.	{ In Decim ^r Granor. oblat ^r & al ^r p ^r fic ^r eid ^r m p ^r p ^r t ^r m p ^r an ^m . xvj ^{li} . Inde. }	
	Rep ^l s.	{ In Sinodal ^r & p ^r curac ^r exenn ^r de Ecc ^l ia ib ^r m ix ^s . vj ^d . Et in Denar ^r soluf ^r Sacriste Eccl ⁱ e Cathedralu ^r s ^c e Trinitatis Norwic ^r p ^r porc ^r s ^r iij ^s . iij ^d . Et Priori de Eye p ^r penc ^r sua p ^r an ^m . x ^s }	xxij ^s . x ^d . xliij ^{li} . xvij ^s . ij ^d .

Corton.	Val ^r .	In Decim ^r Granor. ablat ^r & al munit ^r p ^r fic eid ^m p ^r t ^m x ^{li} .	} vij ^{li} . xj ^s . vij ^d .
		Inde.	
	Rep ^{is} .	In Sinodal ^r & p ^r cura ^r exeunt de Eccl ^{ia} ib ^m vij ^s . vij ^d . Et in Denar ^r solut ^r Ep ^o Norwicen p ^r quadam pencoe ^r exeunt de Eccl ^{ia} ib ^m p ^r annu ^r xl ^s xlvij ^s . vij ^d .	
		Et valet clare de Sp ^{ual} xxxvij ^{li} . v ^d .	
		Sm ^r To ^{ls} clare valoris t ^m E. } xx	
		Sp ^{ual} q ^m E. Temporal . . . } ciiij.j ^{li} . xvij ^s . j ^d . di ^r q ^r .	



✠ Sigillum Philippi, Abbatis de Leestone.

ABBOTS OF LEISTON.

1182	R. Abbas de Leeston.
1216	Philip.
1250	Matthew.
1285	Gregory.
1301	John de Glemham.
1312	Robert.
1390	John.
1409	Thomas de Huntingfeld.
1437	Clement Bliburgh.
1456	John of Sprotling.
1475	Richard Dunmowe.
1488	Thomas Doget.
1504	Thomas Waite.
1527	John Green.
1531	George Charlton, or Carleton.

The seal of Abbot Philip appears in the wood-cut at the head of the preceding list. The device, which was never very elegant, seems to have sustained unusual injury. Gregory, Abbot of Leiston, is recognized in a deed, dated the 14th of

Edward I.,²³ whereby Robert de Montalt grants to the said Gregory, and the convent of that place, &c., all his lands and tenements, with their appurtenances in Pethawe, Helmingham, Fframsdene, Cretingham, Stanham, Wynestune and Codenham. Hiis testibus Dñō Willō de Weylaund. Dñō Thom. fil. ejus. Dñō Rob. de Valeyns. Dñō John de Bocking. Dñō Rob. de Wynestune. John de Ulvestune. Yvone de Kenetune. Willō de Wynestune. John le Poer, et aliis.

The election of John de Glemham was confirmed on the 12th of the calends of January, 1301. Thomas de Huntingfeld, elected in November, 1409, is presumed to have been alive in 1418, because his name occurs in that year.²⁴ Clement Bliburgh held his first court for the manor of Pethaugh, which belonged to his abbey, in the 16th year of Henry VI. John of Sprotling, "Abbot of Leyston," held his first court for his manor of "Glaverynge" on Thursday next after the feast of St. Margaret the Virgin, in the first year of King Edward IV.; and Richard Dunmowe held a court for the same manor in the first week of Lent, and in the 19th year of the same king. Of Thomas Doget, his successor, I learn only that he died before the 9th of July, 1506. The first court for the manor of Glevering held by "John Green, Abbot of the monastery of the Blessed St. Mary, Leyston, with his attorned tenants," was on "the Thursday next before the feast of St. Lawrence the Martyr, in the reign of Henry VIII., the 19th year."²⁵ Abbot Green resigned his office voluntarily on the 21st of May, 1531, and was consecrated a hermit at the chapel of St. Mary, in the old religious house near the sea. This event is thus registered in the manuscript chronicle of Butley Priory: "Johannes Green, abbatiam relinquens sponte, consecratus est in anchoritam apud capellam S. Marie in antiquo cœnobio juxta mare."²⁶ The short history of the last Abbot has been already detailed.

The Abbot's rabbit-warren seems to have been very extensive, as it spread into the parishes and hamlets of Aldringham, Buxlow, Frieston, Haselwood, Knoddishall, Leiston, Sizewell, Theberton, and Thorpe. A grant of this warren was made to John Tufton, of Wertwell, and John Browne, for thirty-one years, from the 13th March, 40th of Queen Elizabeth;²⁷ and on the 22nd of June, in the 13th of Charles I., "the coney-warren was leased to Barney Reimer for eighteen years."²⁸ It was made parcel of the jointure of Queen Henrietta Maria, by Parliament, in 1650. A lease was afterwards granted to Henry Stredfield of Leiston coney-warren for twenty-one years, at a rental of £ 20 per annum and a fine of £ 125, dated April 19th, in the 13th of Charles II.²⁹

The site of the original monastery of Leiston, as erected by Ranulph de Glanville in 1182, was eastward of the present remains, and nearer the sea. But this situation

²³ Pen. W. S. Fitch, Esq.

²⁴ Browne Willis.

²⁵ Court Rolls of the manor of Glevering: communicated by W. P. Hunt, Esq.

²⁶ Tanner's Not. Mon.

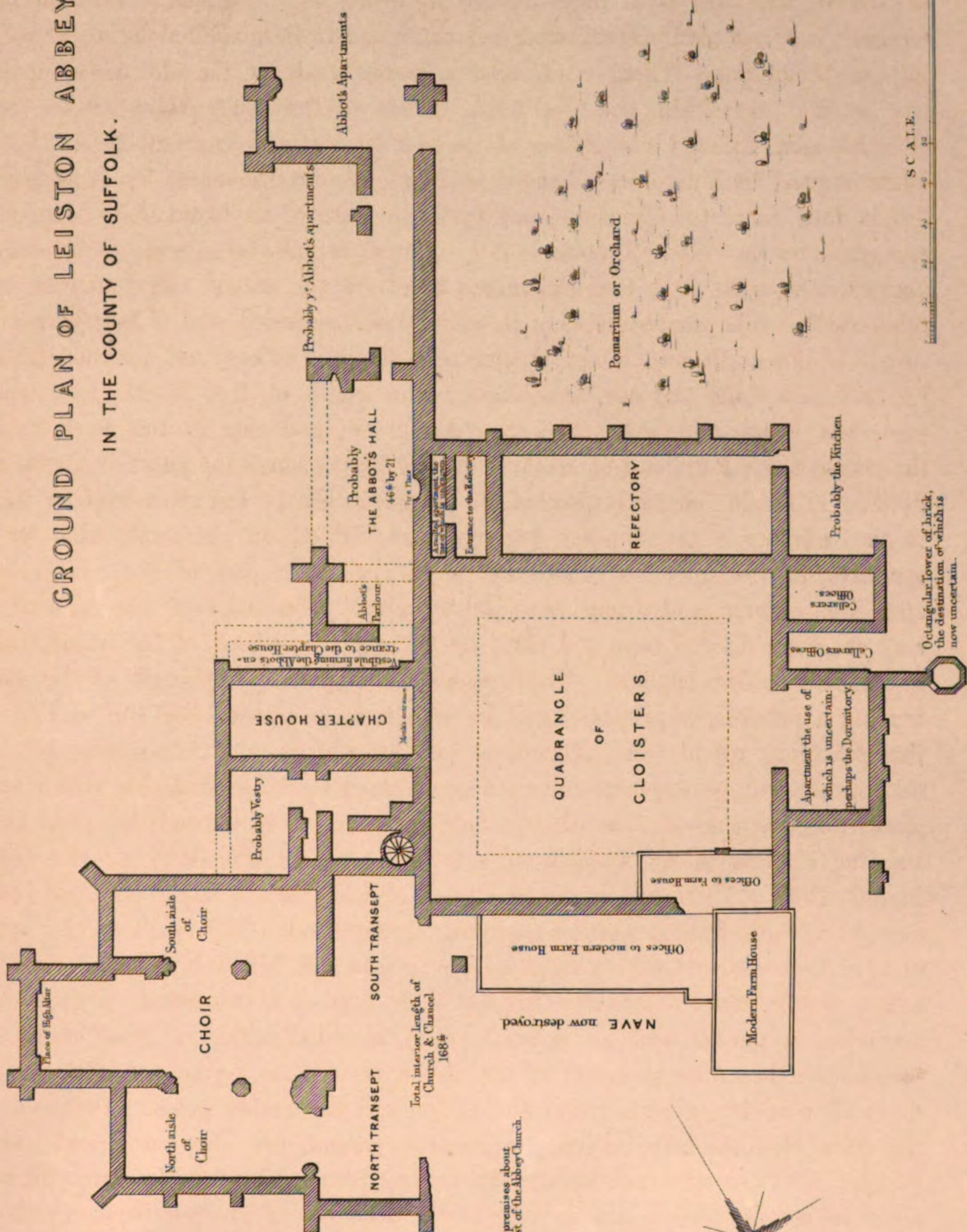
²⁷ MSS. Jermyn and Davy.

²⁸ Idem.

²⁹ Idem.

being found bleak and inconvenient by the monks, who were excellent judges of soil and shelter, a new spot was selected in 1362, or the following year, by Robert de Ufford, who was then their patron, to which they removed. The old house, however, was not totally abandoned, but continued to be inhabited by a few recluses till the Dissolution. There were legacies to our Lady of the old Abbey made as late as the years 1511 and 1516, and it was to this place Abbot Green retired, after he relinquished his situation as superior of the new convent, in 1531. The fabric erected by Ufford was doomed to be of short continuance, for it perished by fire in little more than twenty years from the date of its foundation, being totally consumed by that element about 1389. It was rebuilt, on a scale of considerable magnificence, soon after that calamitous event, as the extent and grandeur of its ruins testify. The conventual church, which was cross-aisled, and of lofty proportions, stood on the north side of the cloister and domestic offices, and screened them by its vast bulk from the northern blasts. The length of this church, from east to west, was about 168 feet. The chancel window, and that in the north gable of the transept, are lofty, and of remarkably fine proportions: the latter is about forty-five feet in height, elegantly pointed, and rivalled only by the great western window of the refectory. The opposite transept was lighted on the south side by two apertures in the upper or clerestory range, the lower part of the wall abutting upon the cloister, and being consequently solid. The aisles of the chancel were very spacious, divided from the choir by octangular columns of fine stone, banded by plain moulded capitals. The arcades were probably screened off by lattices forming a parclose, or private chapel, in each aisle, as piscinas are still visible there. The situation, extent, and proportions of the various apartments and offices of the convent will be apparent from an examination of the ground-plan which accompanies this description. The Abbot's lodgings were placed between the great kitchen and the church, as we learn from a return made of the abbey on the 26th of August, 1568. There was a second kitchen attached to the larger one, and beneath them were three stables,—rather a singular arrangement. The refectory also appears to have been situated over a range of low offices. A mill, a brew-house, a malting-house, a kiln-house—probably to dry their hops—a cart-house, a swine-house, granaries, a garden and an orchard, were included within a stone wall, which surrounded the entire precincts of the abbey, though no vestiges of it remain. In this wall were two portals called the upper and the nether gates. The applecroft, the park close, and the covent, or convent garden, are also recognized amongst the names of the adjacent fields. The central tower was tolerably entire till within about a century and a quarter; for in the accounts of Thomas Ingham, who was bailiff of the abbey estate in 1703, when the property produced a total rental of

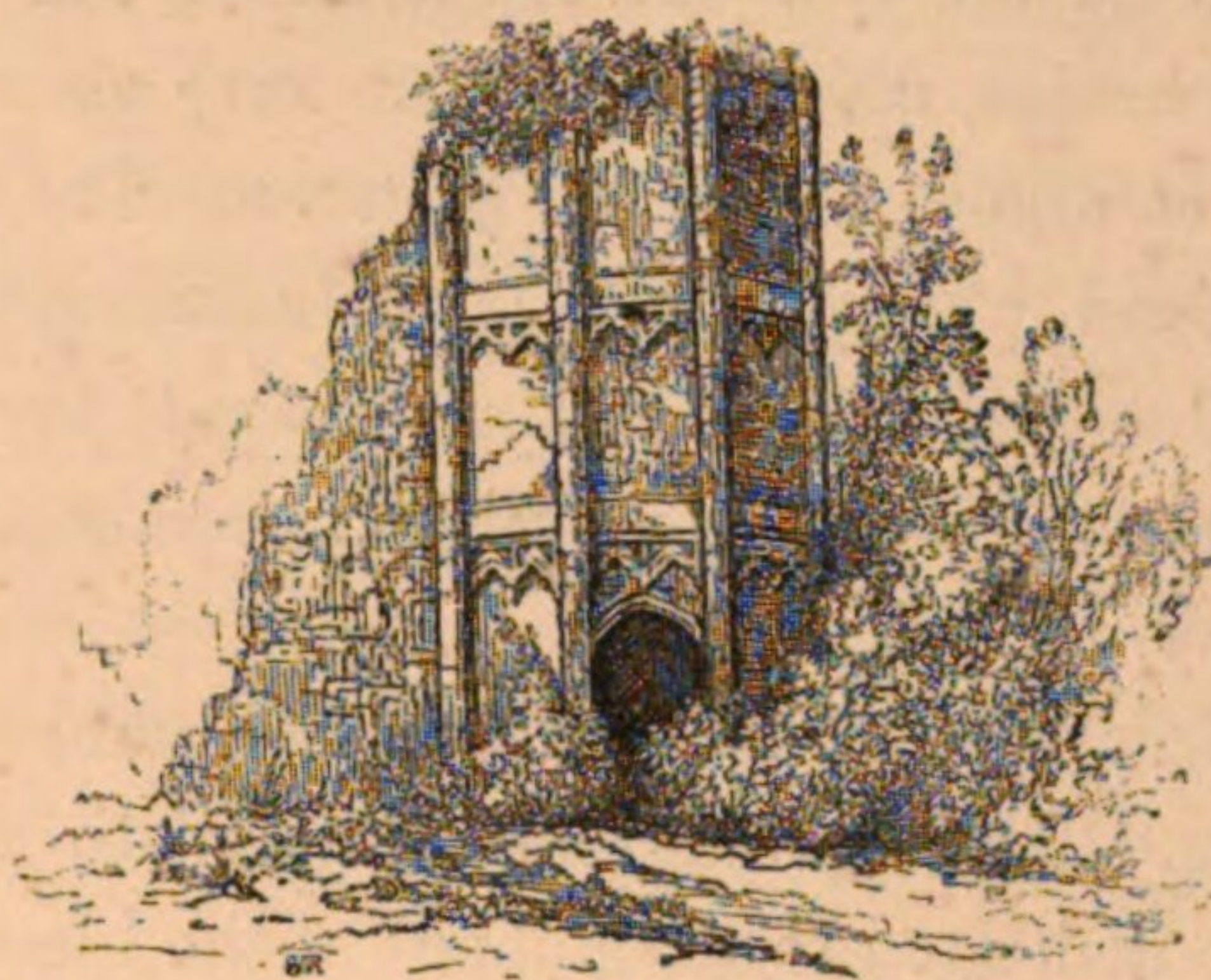
GROUND PLAN OF LEISTON ABBEY IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.



Drawn by Alfred Buckland from measurements by Miss Grop.

£ 810. 18s. 5d., of which the abbey farm brought £ 100, is this item among other disbursements. "Paid for seven dayes workes of three men to take down part of the tower and cleane the bricke, £ 1. 8s. 0d."

There is a very curious turret of red brick, a sort of architectural enigma, projecting from the walls on the west side of the ruins, the use of which I am unable to determine. It could not have been a garden-house, as it is too small, and contains narrow loop-holes only; nor could it have been a place of confinement, as its structure is too slight for such an adaptation. If erected before the abbey was dissolved, its building could have preceded that event but a few years only.



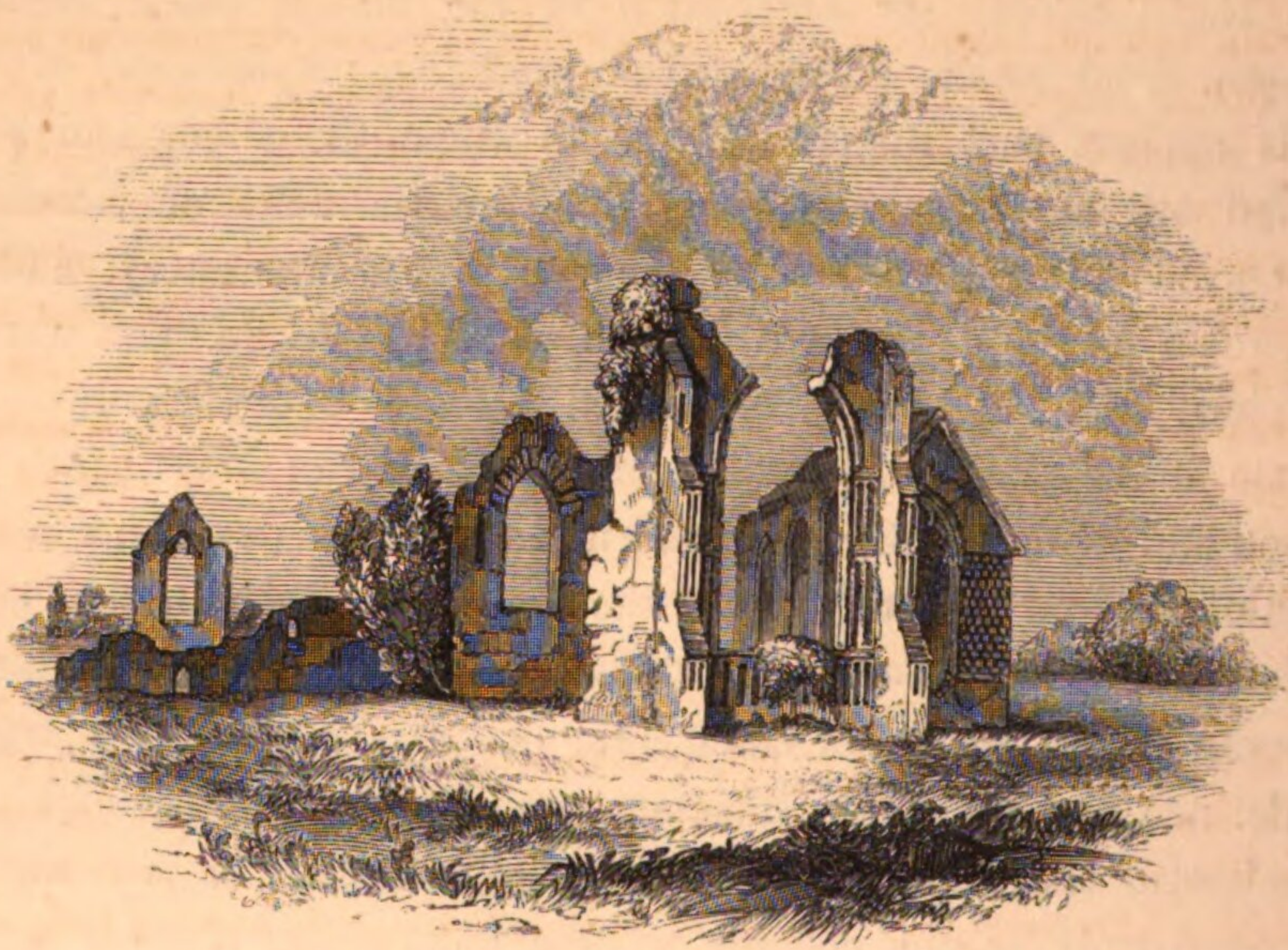
I subjoin the "extent" or description of the abbey, taken in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, from which much of the preceding explanation of the remains is derived. It appears that Robert Browne, to whom the abbey had been granted, in the 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, died on the 18th of November, in the first year of Queen Elizabeth, seized of the site of the monastery, and 355 acres, 1 rood, 4 perches of land adjacent, valued at £ 21. 3s. 2d. per annum, leaving Joane, his widow, who afterwards re-married George Skott, Gentleman, and held the above estate at the period of her decease, on the 2nd of May, 1568, leaving John Browne, her son and heir, aged 30 years and upwards at the day of his father's death.³⁰ At the inquisition held on Browne's death, the state of the abbey is thus described:

"Scitū domus nup. monasterie de abbia de Leiston, ac oīa domus et edificia structur. cameras, turres, solaria et casementa, quecunque infra scitū sceptū ambitor. et domor. prdc. nec non oīa aulas, cameras, promptuaria, sellaria, solaria quecunque, que nup. vocabantur the abbot's lodgings, insimill. scituat. et jac. inter coquina et eccliam in Leiston prdc. et una coquina, et una font. eidem coquine prox. adjacend. cum domu ad tunc stramine coopt. prox. adjacen. gardino, una alia dom. stramine coopt. voc. the Nethergate, ac oīa illa tria stabula stramine coopt. subtu. coquina—

³⁰ Inquis. p. mort. capt. ap. Gipp. 26 Aug. 10 Eliz.

domu pandaxatoria, domu molind. domum vocat. the malting house, domu voc. the kilne house, domu voc. the carte howse, dom. voc. the swine house, camera et granaria sup. le malting howse, ac gardina, pomaria et includunt. circa quāq. in muro lapideo, necnon portas et domos inter januam superiorem, et inferiorem, et cum claus. terr. voc. Elmetham closse, cont. per. est. xxv acr. et un. rod. ac cum terr. ad p̄tin voc. Sharpeclosse, cont. xxvj acr. ac cum al. cl. terr. voc. ponder close, cont. lxij acr. et dim. et un. rod. et un. al. cl. terr. voc. Bushil close, cont. lx acr. et dim. ac. cum al. clu. voc. Horse down. cont. xx acr. ac un. clos. voc. Covent garden, et Hogges close, cont. xij acr. ac un. clu. terr. voc. Applecroft, cont. 36. ij. et iiij pli. ac un. cl. terr. voc. the Parke close, cont. xvj acr. ac un. clu. terr. novit ex euidem vie ducent. a monasterio pdico. ad pontē. voc. East bridge, cont. per estimac. xxvj acr. ac tot. prat. voc. Elmham meddowe, cont. xvij acr. et dimid. ac un. al. p̄rat. voc. The longe meadowe, cont. p. estim. 3 acr. ac cum tent. eid. p̄tin. jac. in le leyin Leiston p̄dict. ac oīa ter. prat. past. aquas et hereditam. que Johes Kytchin et Muffet quond. huere. ac ecia. tot. ill. bosc. cu. p̄tin. p̄de. clo. voc. horseclose adjac. cont. xiiij ac. necnon un. al. bosc. cum p̄tin. voc. Childerswood, cont. xxx acr. &c.”³¹

About fifty or sixty yards north-west of the abbey church are considerable remains of the granaries, barns, and farming buildings attached to the monastery. Both the old³² and new abbey were dedicated to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary.



³¹ Ex collec. Simonds D'Ewes. Harl. MSS. 639.

³² The site of the old abbey was the property of the late William Tatnall, Esq., on whose decease it descended to Lord Rendlesham.

FURTHER CHARTERS RELATING TO LEISTON ABBEY.

Carta Regis Edwardi Secundi, confirmationem Gilberti Peche Militis de omnibus Terris, de feodo suo, ratificans.

[Pat. 6 Edw. II. p. 2, m. 10.]

Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. Sciatis, quod nos concessionem et confirmationem, quas Gilbertus Peche, miles, nuper per scriptum suum fecit Roberto, tunc abbati et conventui de Leistone, de omnibus terris et tenementis, quæ de feodo ipsius Gilberti tunc tenuerunt in Hathetune, Gleringe, Estone, Wicham, Pechaye, Framesdene, et in quibuscunque aliis villis aut locis, de eodem feodo, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, ut in ædificiis, mesuagiis, terris, &c., ratas habentes et gratas, &c., confirmamas, &c. T. rege. apud Westm. xvi. die Maii.

Confirmatio Ricardi Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi, Cartam Regis Ricardi primi recitans.

[Ibid. fol. 11. a.]

Ricardus Dei gratiâ Cantuariensis archiepiscopus, totius Angliæ primas, universis Christi fidelibus salutem in Domino: Noverit universitatis vestra nos inspexisse, et nostris manibus bajulasse cartam domini Ricardi regis Angliæ, sub hac formâ. “Ricardus Dei gratiâ rex Angliæ, dux Normanniæ, Aquitanniæ, comes Andegaviæ, archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vicecomitibus, ministris, et omnibus ballivis suis totius Angliæ, Francis, et Anglicis, præsentibus et futuris, salutem. Sciatis nos, ad petitionem fidelis nostri Ranulfi de Glanvillâ, concessisse et hac præsentî cartâ nostrâ confirmâsse donationem, quam idem Ranulfus fecit Deo et ecclesiæ, in honore beatæ Mariæ apud Leystone constructæ, et canonicis ordinis Præmonstratensis ibidem Deo servientibus, ad abbathiam ibidem construendam, ad ministrandum ibidem imperpetuum, de toto manerio de Leystone possidendo, in liberâ et purâ et perpetuâ elemosinâ, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis; et cum ecclesiâ beatæ Margaretæ de Leystone; et cum ecclesiâ S. Andreæ de Aldringeham; quas ecclesias præfatus Ranulfus priùs dederat canonicis de Buttele, unde ipsi habent cartam ipsius Ranulphi, et cartam confirmationis nostri patris, quas ipsi canonici de Buttele resignaverunt ipsis canonicis de Leystone; quod manerium pater noster priùs dederat memorato Ranulfi de Glanvill, fideli nostro, pro bono servicio suo. Concedimus et confirmamus concessionem et promissionem, quam præfati canonici de Leystone fecerunt eidem Ranulfo, quando eos ibidem fundavit; scilicet, quod nullam villam vel terram ement; vel in vadium, vel ad firmam, vel aliquo alio modo recipient, nisi quæ eis gratis collata fuerit in liberâ elemosinâ. Et quod non capient, vel auferrent ab aliquo hominum, qui tunc temporis, quando eo fundavit, in eadem villâ manserent, vel successoribus eorum aliquid de aliquo tenementorum suorum, quod tunc temporis tenuerunt; sed omnia sua, eis successoribus eorum permittent tenere benè et in pace, per servicia quæ ad ipsa tenementa pertinent. Præterea concessimus, et præsentî cartâ nostrâ confirmavimus Deo et ecclesiæ S. Mariæ de Leystone, et canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus, omnes donationes terrarum, et hominum, et elemosinarum, quæ eis rationabiliter factæ sunt in ecclesiis, et omnibus aliis rebus et possessionibus. Quare volumus, et fermiter præcipimus, quod prædicti canonici, et eorum homines, omnes terras et possessiones et elemosinas suas habeant et teneant cum socâ et sacâ, et tol et theam, et infangenetheof, et cum omnibus aliis libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus, et quietantiis suis, in bosco et plano, et pratis et pascuis, in aquis et molendinis, in viis et semitis; in stagnis et vivariis, et mariscis et piscariis, et grangiis et virgultis, infra burgum et extra, et in omnibus rebus, et in omnibus locis, solitas libertates, et quietas de sectis schirarum, et hundredorum, et placitorum, et quotelarum; et de pecuniâ dandâ pro forisfacto de murdre; et wapentachiis; et de scutagiis; et de geldis et denegeldis, et hidagiis, et assisis; et de operationibus castellorum, et parcorum, et pontium, et calcetorum, et de fredwite; et de hengenewitâ; et de flemenefrentâ; et de hamsocnâ, et de warpani; et de averpani; et de blodwite; et

de fredwitâ et legwitâ; et de hundredepani; et de titing, nisi in introitu. Et sint quieti ipsi et homines sui per totam terram nostram de omni theloneo, et de omnibus rebus, quas ipsi canonici, vel homines sui poterint assecurari, quod emant vel vendant eas ad proprios usus canonicorum ipsorum, vel hominum suorum, absque venditione ulterius faciendâ. Et de passagiis et de pontagiis; et de lestagiis et stallagiis, et de omni seculari servicio et opere servili, et exactione; et omnibus aliis occasionibus, et consuetudinibus secularibus, exceptâ solâ justiciâ mortis et membrorum. Hæc omnia eis concessimus in perpetuam elemosinam pro Dei amore, et salute animæ nostræ, et animâ regis patris nostri Henricis, et omnium antecessorum suorum, et successorum nostrorum. Testibus, H. episcopo Dunelmensi, Ric. Londonensi, God. Wintoniensi, Huberto Saresburiensi electis: Willielmo comite Arundelæ, Willielmo de Sancto Johanne, G. filio Petri, Hugone Bard., Willielmo Ruffo., Michaela Belet. Datæ apud Arundell, per manum Willielmi de Longo Campo. cancellarii nostri, Eliensis electi, xiiii^o. die Octobris, regni nostri anno primo."

Nos igitur jam dictæ ecclesiæ quieti et securitati in posterum providere volentes, memorata, sicut eidem ecclesiæ, et canonicis in eâ constitutis rationabiliter concessa sunt et collata, auctoritate nostrâ confirmamus, et sigilli nostri munimine corroboramus. Testibus, G. Roffensi episcopo; Herbertho Cantuariensi archidiacono; magistro Silvestro, magistro Ricardo de Sancto Martino.

Confirmatio Rogeri Comitis de Ecclesiâ de Middeltune.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos præsens scriptum pervenerit, Rogerus Bigot comes Norfolchiæ salutem. Noverit universitatis vestra, me pro salute animæ meæ, et comitis Hugonis patris mei, et comitissæ Julianæ matris meæ; et comitissæ Idæ uxoris meæ, et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum, concessisse Deo et ecclesiæ beatæ Mariæ de Leestune, et canonicis Deo servientibus, ecclesium beatæ Mariæ de Middiltone, quæ pertinet ad feodum meum, quod Robertus de Crec tenet de me in eadem villâ: habendam et tenendam in puram et perpetuam elemosinam, cum omnibus ad eam pertinentibus, sicut carta ejusdem Roberti ecclesiæ ejusdem patroni, quam eis indè fecit, testatur. Et ut hæc mea concessio perpetuæ primitatis robur optineat, eam præsentis scripti, et sigilli mei appositione confirmavi in perpetuum valituram. Testibus, Willielmo de Fraxino, Henrico et Galfrido de Grimilies.

Carta Willielmi de Valeines de Ecclesiâ de Culfou.

Sciant præsentis et futuri, quod ego Willielmus de Valeines dedi et concessi, et hac præsentis cartâ meâ confirmavi Deo et ecclesiæ sanctæ Mariæ de insulâ de Leestune, et canonicis ordinis Præmonstratensis ibidem Deo servientibus, pro salute animæ meæ, et omnium antecessorum meorum, et successorum meorum, ecclesiam de Culfou, cum omnibus pertinentiis, in puram et perpetuam elemosinam. Et ut ista donatio firma et rata habeatur, eam sigilli mei appositione roboravi. Hiis testibus, Willielmo capellano, &c.

Confirmatio Willielmi de Verdune de Ecclesiâ de Culpho.

Sciant præsentis et futuri, quod ego Willielmus de Verdune, ad petitionem Matildis uxoris meæ, concessi, et hac præsentis cartâ meâ confirmavi Deo et beatæ Mariæ, et canonicis ordinis Præmonstratensis de Leeston, donationem ecclesiæ S. Botulfi de Culfo, quam fecit eis Willielmus de Valeines pater prædictæ uxoris meæ. Et quia proprium sigillum non habui, eam sigillo Wydonis patris mei roboravi. Hiis testibus, Wydone de Verdune, Johanne de Verdune, Willielmo de Holcham, Matthæo de Stokes, &c.

Carta Rogeri de Glamvillâ de Ecclesiâ de Middeltune.

Universis sanctæ matris ecclesiæ filiis, præsentibus et futuris, Rogerus de Glamvillâ salutem. Universitati vestræ notum fieri volo, me concessisse et dedisse, et hac meâ cartâ confirmasse Deo et ecclesiæ S. Mariæ de Leestune, et canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus, ecclesiam S. Mariæ de Middeltune, quæ est

de feodo meo, liberè, quietè, et integrè, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, in puram et perpetuam elemosinam, pro salute animæ meæ, et animæ comitissæ Gundredæ uxoris meæ; et patris mei, et matris meæ, et uxoris meæ Christianæ; et pro salute animæ Hervei fratris mei, et omnium parentum meorum et amicorum. Hujus meæ concessionis et donationis sunt testes Thomas archidiaconus, magist. Reinerus.

Om̃ibz s̃ce mat's eccl'ie filijs Ph. dict' Leest' & convēt' eid loci salut' in vero salutem. Novit univ'sitas ṽra nos com̃uni assensu & utilitate eā d'i & intuitu pietatis concessisse & resignasse dilectis fr̃ibz ñris s. Will'o p̃ori de Buttel' and conventui ej'd loci concessioe q̃a Rob' Abb' de Leest' p̃decessor ñr & quent' ēē temp'is eis fecerūt videlicet q̃cqd' juris habuerūt in Eccl'ia de Cnodeshal cū om̃ibz t̃ris & decimis & q̃bzcumq̃ aliis rebz ad eam p̃tinentibz ṽcumq̃ fuerit sine in d̃nico ūro sine in c̃cumq̃ alt'ius ita integ' & plenarie s̃c eand p̃dictā eccl'iam p̃fati canonici plenius & integ'us possederūt cū oībz suis p̃tinecijs añ advent' ñrm in Leest' & in ip̃o & anno q̃o illuc advenim'. Ne aut' ista juris ñri p̃taxatis fr̃ibz ñris canonicis de Buttel' facta concessio q̃cumq̃ occasione urgente aliq̃a lesionē sustineat in postum eam p̃sentis pagine lit̃is instam & forma sigilli ñri munitā manibz ñris in eor' manus resignavimus.

Om̃ibz s̃ce mat's eccl'ie filijs R. dict' Abbas de Leest' & convent' ejusdē loci salut' Novit univ'sitas ṽra nos cōm̃i consēsu & utilitate eā d'i & intuitu pietatis concessisse & resignasse dilectis fr̃ibz ñris s. Gilb'to p̃ori de Buttel' & conventui ejusdē loci q̃cquid juris heūnt in eccl'ia de Cnodeshal cū om̃ibz t̃ris & decimis & q̃bzcumq̃ alijs rebz ad eam p̃tinetibz ṽcumq̃ fuerit sine in d̃nio ñro sine in c̃tumq̃ alt'ius ita integ' & plenarie s̃t eand p̃dictā eccl'iam p̃fati canonici pleni' & integ'us possederūt cū om̃ibz suis p̃tinecijs añ advent' ñrm in Leest' & in ip̃o & anno q̃o ibi advenim' ne aut' ista juris ñri p̃taxatis fr̃ibz ñris canonicis de Buttel' facta concessio q̃cumq̃ occasione urgente aliq̃a lesionē sustineat in postum eā p̃sentis pagine lit̃is justā & forma sigilli ñri munitā manibz ñris in eor' man' resignavim' p̃mittentes in ṽbo ṽitatis & fide religiois nos numq̃a moturos aliq̃a q̃relā ṽl q̃rimoniā eis sup' p̃fata eccl'ia de Cnodeshal & q̃bzcumq̃ rebz ad eam p̃tinentibz.

THE CHURCH

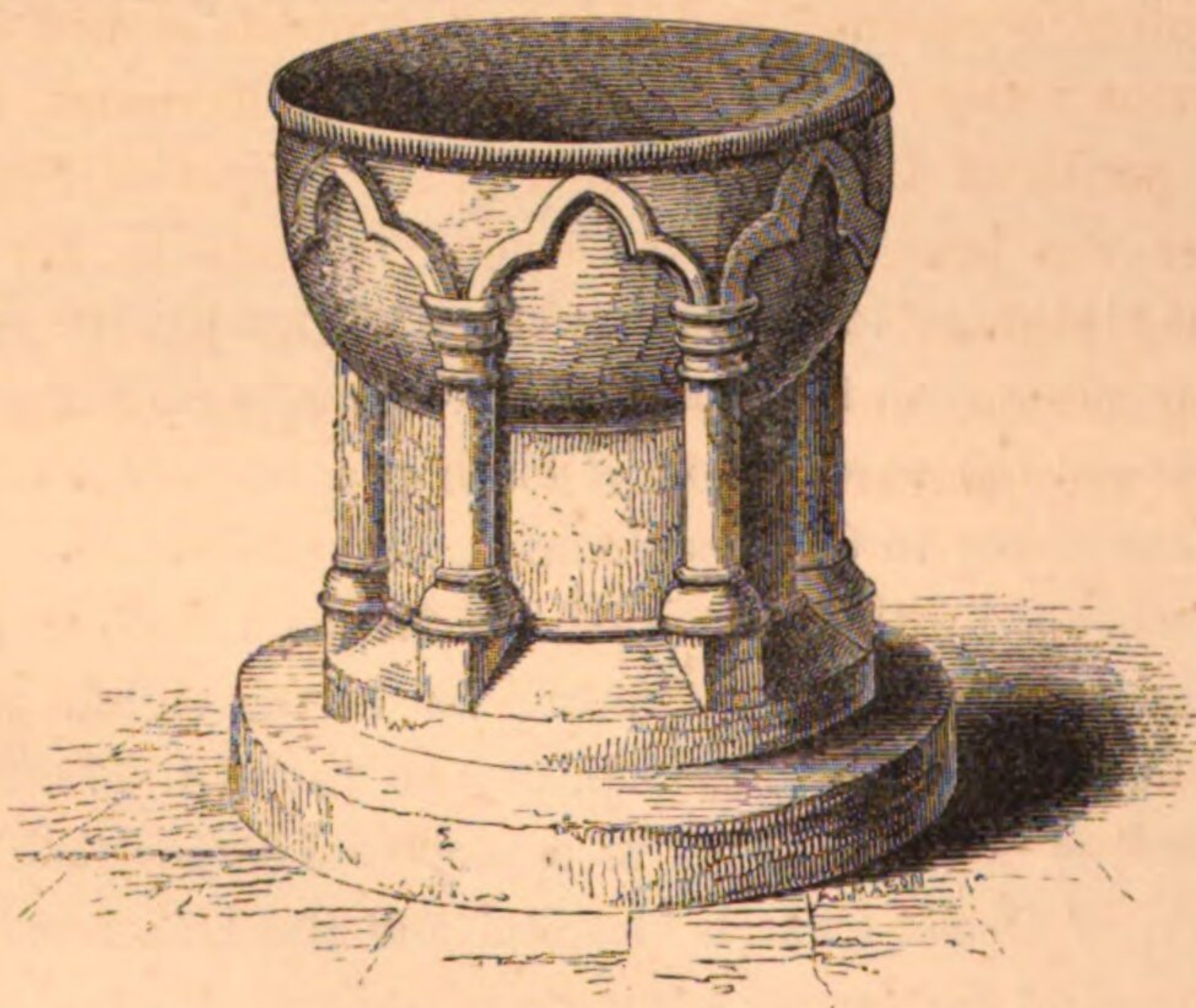
at Leiston, which is dedicated to St. Margaret, was appropriated by the abbey from its first foundation, together with the chapel of St. Nicholas at Sizewell. It continued in the Abbot's hands till the suppression of his house, when it was granted with the other possessions of the abbey to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. By this nobleman these estates were exchanged with Henry VIII. for Henham Hall, &c., when the rectory appears to have been retained by the Crown; for in the eighth of James I. it was granted in fee-farm to Armiger Browne, Esq., at a rent of £4. 17s. 2d. The benefice, with Sizewell annexed, is now considered as a perpetual curacy, and said to be in the alternate presentation of Christ Church Hospital and the Haberdashers' Company, at London, but I do not find the former community presenting to it after 1768, though four incumbents have been instituted since that period. The minister of Leiston pays the Haberdashers' Company a rent of one peppercorn, if demanded. They bought in the impropriation of about £50 per annum, reserving £20 per annum out of the mesne profits, till they made up the sum laid out in the purchase; and then settled the whole

rectory upon the minister by lease for forty years, if he lived so long to serve the cure.³³

The fabric of this church comprises a nave and chancel of the same width, with a square tower at the west end, containing five bells. It is a very long and rather gloomy edifice, covered with thatch, and displays less of elegance and cost than might have been expected, considering its revenues were so long absorbed by the neighbouring abbey. For the monks, with all their rapacity and faults, were not niggard of their treasures, when required in the erection of places of divine worship. How many of their conventual churches rivalled, if they did not surpass, the glories of our noblest cathedrals! The presence of a few lancet windows in the church at Leiston seems to show that it was erected about half a century after its appropriation by the abbey, and possibly on the site of one of the three Saxon churches mentioned in Domesday.³⁴ There is a window in the south wall of the chancel of rather more elegant pattern than the rest, which appears to have been put in at the cost of a private individual and his wife; for in the year 1824, on the writer's first visit to this church, a legend on the wall might be then deciphered, which seemed to commemorate such a benefaction.

Orate q. aīab; Edmūd Moose, et Margerie cōsort. sue.

All of the many brass effigies which formerly enriched this edifice have disappeared by the hands of sacrilege or fanaticism, leaving blank matrices only to denote



The Font.

³³ Kennet's case of Improvements.—MSS. Jermyn and Davy, &c.

³⁴ Might not the old abbey, and the Sizewell chapel, have been erected on the foundations of the other churches?

their former occupancy. There is a very curious and rude chest for the reception of the books and church utensils, which is probably as old as the edifice itself. It is formed of a rough log of oak, unartistically hollowed in the centre.³⁵

Monuments.—To the memory of the Hon. Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Edward, Lord Viscount Hinchinbrook, and grand-daughter of the Right Hon. Lady Anne Harvey. She died Dec. 13th, 1762, and was interred Dec. 21st. William Tatnall, Esq., of Leiston Old Abbey, died 3rd June, 1826. Mary, his wife, died 13th March, 1837. Arms: Quarterly, 1 and 4. az. a scimitar bendwise or; Tatnall, 2 and 3; gules 3 garbs; impaling az. 2 lions rampant, endorsed or, Carter. John Grimsby, Gent., died April 16th, 1768, æt. 49. Four of his children are buried with him. Mrs. Christian Grimsby, his mother, died June 7th, 1762, aged 80. Susanna, wife of John Grimsby, died Feb. 3rd, 1779, aged 64. Mr. Thomas Grimsby, died April 16th, 1728, aged 52. Sarah, his wife, died April 4th, 1755, aged 76. Arms: Grimsby, per chev. sab. and arg. in chief 3 cinquefoils of the second. Mary, wife of Gabriel Trusson, died Nov. 11th, 1763, in the 30th year of her age. Gabriel Trusson, died Dec. 21st, 1770, aged 45. Susan Grimsby, died 3rd Nov. 1793, aged 39. Anne, late wife of Thomas Wall, of Aldborough, mariner, died June 7th, 1728, aged 25: she is buried with her two children. John Sparhauke, Gent., died 19th Feb. 1722, aged 80. Mary, his wife, died Jan. 3rd, 1731, aged 70. Henry Sparhauke, Gent., and John and Mary Sparhauke, are also buried in this church.

The parish registers commence in 1538, and contain, amidst other entries, the following rather curious notice: "Thomas Crower, of Walberswick, and Agnes Ward, of Sysewell, of the parish of Leiston, married in the chapel of Syswell. The cause was, the said Agnes was lame, so as she could not come to her parish church of Leyston, so her said husband obteyned lycense of the Rt. Worshipful Mr. John Browne, Esq., being person, under the Queen's grace, to be married at the said chappell, and so they were married, 3rd Sep. 1566."

MINISTERS OF LEISTON.

Ministers.	Date.	Patrons.
Frater Joes de Glemham, Abbas .	1301	Id.
Frater Thomas de Huntingfeld .	1409	Id.
Clemens	1446	Id.
Joannes, Abbas	1463	Id.
Richardus, Abbas	1482	Id.
Thomas, Abbas	1488	Id.
Thomas Waite, Abbas	1504	Id.

³⁵ A parish chest of like construction, and equally rude, was in use at Ribchester, in Lancashire, when the writer visited that church about twenty years since.

Ministers.	Date.	Patrons.
Joes Greene, Abbas . . .	1531	Id.
Georgius, Abbas . . .	1536	Id.
Thomas Bull . . .	1768	Governors of Christ's Hospital for this turn.
J. Hadley Swain . . .	1796	Haberdashers' Company.
Charles Browne . . .	1796	The same.
Fred. Cuthbert Beresford Earle .	1834	The same.
John Calvert Blathwayt . . .	1837	The same.

Abbas de Leyston habet eam in proprios usus. Estimatio ejusdem, præter portionem, iij marc. Portio prioris de Eye, in eadem x^s. Procuratio vij^s. vj^d. Synodalia pro termino S. Michis. xij^d., et pro termino Paschæ xij^d. Denarii S. Petri xv^d. ob.—Norwich Domesday.

Charities.—The gift of Mr. Thomas Grimsby, of Leiston. “I give and bequeath to the poor of the parish of Leiston, that come to church to hear divine service, the interest of two hundred pounds, to be given in bread every Lord’s day, at the discretion of the churchwardens, for the time being, of the said church, for ever. Also I give and bequeath all my freehold and charter-hold lands and tenements lying in Wesselton, towards the cloathing of the poor children and widows, belonging to the said parish of Leiston, upon condition the said lands and tenements be never sold. And also John Grimsby, of Blythburgh, and his heirs, are now at this time to be trustees of the said freehold and charter-hold lands for ever: and June 29th, 1755, began to give bread.”

Population in 1841—1177.



Antique Snuffers, size of the original: in the possession of the Right Hon. the Lord Thurlow.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

GUNTON.

The following pedigree is given in correction of the one which appears in page 7.

Mr. Samuel Rix, on the marriage of his daughter, gave her husband, Robert Luson, £1500, and covenanted to bequeath him £1000; besides securing the estate at St. James's, Southelmham, and other benefits, in case of issue. Mr. Wm. Luson settled estates at Blundeston, Flixton, Corton, Somerleyton and Lound, rented at £161 per annum, upon said Robert and Hephzibah for their lives, and the life of the longer liver,—remainder to their issue in tail general—remainder to Robert Luson *in fee*. His father also settled Marshes, &c., at Whet-acre Burgh, let at £100. 10s. per annum, upon Robert Luson in fee; and *Blundeston Hall*, with estates in that parish, Flixton, Corton, Somerleyton and Lound (occupied by Sarah Rix, widow, at £100 per annum), and the residence at Yarmouth, with fish-houses and other buildings, were limited to said Wm. Luson and Elizabeth his wife for their lives, and the life of the survivor; remainder to Robert Luson in fee. The settlements are dated 31st July and 1st August, and the marriage was solemnized on the 2nd August, 1728.

William Luson, of Great Yarmouth, merchant; purchased Blundeston Hall in 1714, and *devised* that estate to his son Robert (vol. i. p. 313), which devise must have been confirmatory of the settlement on his son's marriage in 1728.

Hannah Hewling, the sister of Benjamin and Wm. Hewling mentioned below, married Major Henry Cromwell, of Spinney Abbey, son of Henry, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and grandson of the elder Protector. She died in 1731. According to Noble (vol. ii. p. 460), Mr. Hewling Luson (in 1773) styles this lady his "brother's elder sister;" probably a misprint for "mother's elder sister?" If so, the wife of William Luson was Elizabeth *Hewling*. Noble mentions (vol. ii. p. 460), that when Hannah attended her brothers in prison, "the other sisters were hardly out of their childhood."

Hephzibah Rix, only surviving daughter of Samuel Rix, of Denton, co. Norf. merchant. Born 16th April, 1710. Died at Yarmouth, 28th Nov. 1739.

Robert Luson, described (1st Aug. 1728) as eldest son and heir apparent of Wm. Luson, and of Great Yarmouth, merchant. He appears to have resided, after his first marriage, at Woodbridge, and subsequently at Yarmouth, [and Blundeston?] By his will, dated 1st May, 1767, he devised Blundeston Hall to his eldest daughter, Maria, in fee—other estates at Blundeston to his second daughter, Hephzibah—and an estate at Blundeston, Corton, and Lound, to his daughter Elizabeth (vol. i. p. 313). The decoy farm at Blundeston was sold under his will to Wm. Berners, Esq., whose son sold it to Thomas Morse, Esq.—(Ibid.)

Jane, survived her husband and lived to a very advanced age. A most singular account of her was communicated to the 'Literary Gazette,' the substance of which is inserted in Chambers' 'Edinburgh Journal' for February, 1846, (vol. v. p. 109.) It is there mentioned that her husband was connected with the house of Cromwell.

Hewling Luson, of Gunton, obt. 1777; who was, I presume, the writer of the account of Bridget Bendish, inserted in the 'Annual Register,' 1773, and in the Appendix to the 2nd vol. of Hughes's Letters, and which account is given by the Rev. Mark Noble in his 'Memoirs of the Protectoral House of Cromwell' (vol. ii. p. 338). Noble states, that Mr. Hewling Luson was nearly allied to the family of Benjamin and William Hewling, who suffered for their adherence to the Duke of Monmouth, 1685. (See 'Western Martyrology'.)

Mary Holden.

1. Elizabeth Luson, born 13th Feb. 1729–30, died young.

2. William Luson, born 19th Nov. 1731, died in infancy.

William Luson, Samuel Luson, Twins, born 20th Oct. 1732. died young. died single, 7th July, 1766, on which event there was a total failure of the issue of Robert Luson and Hephzibah Rix.

5. Hephzibah Luson, born 3rd Nov. 1733.

6. Robert Luson, born 23rd Oct. 1734.

7. Elizabeth Luson, born 16th Sept. 1735.

Maria Luson, ux. George Nicholls, Esq.

Hephzibah Luson.

Nathaniel Rix, Esq., of Blundeston, afterwards of Inworth, co. Essex, where he died, 29th Sept. 1820, having married, 2nd, Elizabeth Dowson,—3rd, Mary Milbourne, and left issue by both. He was born 25th May, 1751.

Elizabeth Luson, ux. Cam-mant Money, Esq.

Hewling Luson, "of the city of London, Gent.," in 1779 surrendered copyholds, part of an estate at St. James's, Southelmham, as "only son and heir at law of Hewling Luson, deceased, the uncle and heir at law of Samuel Luson, deceased, grandson & devisee of Samuel Rix."

Shasu Rix, baptized 9th May, 1780; died in infancy.

LOUND.

Page 31.—The true reading of the legend on the base of the font at Lound is as follows :

✠ Orate pro aīa dñi Johis Bertelot, rectoris ecclīe de Lound.

Page 197, second line from the bottom, for 'manner' read 'manor.'

Page 199, line 13, for 'exemption,' read 'description.'

DUNWICH.

Page 234, line 6.—The Abbot of Bury's manor of Alneterne is thus described in Domesday Book, fol. 385 bis.

In blidinga. H. ten. scā adeldrida Alnetnē. p. man. t. r. e. II. car. træ. Tc. IX. uill. modo. VII. semp. XIII. bord. semp. I. ser. semper II. car. in dominio. et. III. car. hoīum. et dim. Æcclia. de II. ac. silua ad VI. porc. II. ac. pti. et I. runc. et VIII. an. et XXVIII. ous. et VIII. porc. et XVI. cap. Huic manerio ptinet. LXXX. burgenses. in dunewic. et manent. III. XIII. ac. sep. ual. c. sol. In ead. III. libi hoēs ptinent. manentes in besemera de XIII. ac. et. I. car. et ual. III. sol. S. A. socā et sacā.

The following deeds and charters relating to Dunwich are contained in two folio volumes, collected and arranged by the late Mr. Astle, Keeper of the Tower Records, and now in the possession of Robert Hills, Esq., of Colne Park, near Halstead. The Author regrets that they were not forwarded to him in time to be incorporated into his account of that ancient borough.

VOLUME I.

No.	A. D.	An. Regni.	
1.	1287.	5 Ed. I.	Curie de Donewico.
2.	1331.	4 Ed. III.	Inquisitio de Donevico.
3.	1334.	8 Ed. III.	Rot. Claus. St. Nicholas Parish.
4.	1337.	10 Ed. III.	Receivers' account.
5.	1384.	7 Ric. II.	Deed between Sir John Swyllinton, Knt., and the burgesses of Dunwich.
6.	1403.	4 Hen. IV.	Taxatio concess. per. Parliament.
7.	1406.	7 Hen. IV.	Placita de Swillington.
7 b.	1407.	8 Hen. IV.	Leet court.
8.	Id.	Id.	Inquisitiones, &c. Th. Arundel, Arch. B. P. of Cant. Chanr.
9.	Id.	Id.	Dunwich Court.
10.	Id.	Id.	Dunwich acc ^t of Courts.
11.	Id.	Id.	Inquisit. ; Leet, &c.
12.	1407-8.	8 and 9 Hen. IV.	Dunwich Courts.
13.	1409.	10 Hen. IV.	Customs of the Haven.
14.	Id.	Id.	Extrat. Curie.

No.	A. D.	An. Regni.	
15.	1411.	12 Hen. IV.	Extrat. Curie.
16.	Id.	Id.	Inquis. pro Dno Rege, Leta, &c.
17.	Id.	Id.	Extrat. Curie.
18.	Id.	Id.	Stallag. in foro de Donewych, Customs, &c.
19.	1412.	13 Hen. IV.	Inquis. Leta. &c.
20.	Id.	Id.	Stallage and Customs of the Haven.
21.	Id.	Id.	Extrat. Curie.
22.	S. D.	— Hen. IV.	Bailiffs of Dunwich, v. J. Hopton, &c.
23.	1421-2.	9 and 10 Hen. V.	Inquist. Present. Stallage, &c.
24.	{ 1405 to 1449.	{ 6 Hen. IV. to 27 Hen. VI.	} Northales Court Rolls belonging to Dunwich Temple. 5. Rolls.
25.	1435.	13 Hen. VI.	
26.	1442.	20 Hen. VI.	Leet Court, Inquisit. Amerciament, Stallage, &c.
27.	1443.	21 Hen. VI.	Compotus Willi. de la Pole, com. Suff.
28.	1458.	36 Hen. VI.	Inquisitio ex. offic. pro Dno Rege.
29.	1495.	10 Hen. VII.	Inquisitio, &c.
30.	1498.	13 Hen. VII.	Id.
31.	S. D.		Dorso, "for the Haven" commiss. ad inquirand. Compota, &c.
32.	S. D.		Dorso. Compota "for the Haven of Donwych."
33.	S. D.		Copies of Charters, Inquisitions, &c.
34.	S. D.		Compleynt of Dunwich against John Clavering, for his incroachment of the Haven.
35.	S. D.		Crown Rents.
36.	S. D.		The Town Customs of Donwych.
37.	S. D.		Id.

VOLUME II.

Page

1. S. D. Grant of an acre of land in St. James's parish by Ordig. Fitz-Ralf to Walter Fitz-Eustace, with the service of William Frend, viz. two pence, and two hens, at an annual rent of 4 pence.
2. S. D. Grant, whereby Mabilia, the widow of Henry de Peschale, gives all her lands in Heveningham to the church of St. James at Dunwich.
3. Claricia, the daughter of Clement Thorald, of Donewych, sells for six marks of silver, her messuage in St. John's parish at Donewych, to Walter Hernard. Among the witnesses appear the names of William Bedale, Mayor of Dunwich, Peter Helmet, John de Faleyse, &c. Dated on the Sabbath day, being the festival of St. Barnaby, A. D. 1306.
4. Confirmation Charter of Edward III., dated at Westminster, June 28th, 1330.
6. Edmund, the son of John del Clyf, of Dunwich, grants to Constantine Bernard, of the same place, a piece of land in the market-place at Dunwich, "in longitudine novem pedes, et in latitudine sex pedes." Among the witnesses are John Payn "tri'e tempe maior de Donewyco." Dated 1331, 4 Ed. III.
7. A license, dated at Westminster, 21st of May, 49th of Edward III., to Richard Wodehewer, of St. Osyth, to ship corn for the London market.
8. Dunwich liberties and customs confirmed, 38th Edward III.

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9. Deed from Edward III., dated in the 38th year of his reign, addressed to the bailiffs of Great Yarmouth, exonerating the burgesses of Dunwich from all toll and customs.
10. An acquittance, addressed by Edward III. to the Sheriff of Norfolk, to the town of Dunwich.
11. License, dated at Westminster, 45th of Edward III., 1372, allowing the merchants to trade, according to the statute at York.
- 12, 13. *Perampla confirmatio Burgens. de Donwich.*, 2nd Richard II.
15. Merchants of Dunwich exonerated from paying customs; dated at Westminster, 6th Richard II., 1383.
17. An indenture, in French, between Sir Robert Swyllington and the burgesses of Dunwich; dated 1384, 7th Richard II.; an imperfect seal attached of Sir Robert Swyllington's arms.
19. A writ, dated at Westminster, 14th of Richard II., 1391, addressed to the Sheriff of Suffolk, commanding him to assist the burgesses of Dunwich in collecting their customs.
21. A writ addressed to Dunwich, by Edward, Earl of Rutland and Cork, Admiral both of the eastern and western shores of England; dated 16th of Richard II. A portion of a very fine seal of hard red wax attached; representing an ancient galley under sail.
23. Pleadings against Sir Robert Swyllington for the haven and ness, and rights of wreck, &c., between Dunwich and Southwold; dated Feb. 14th, 1401.
24. A petition from Thomas, Earl Marshal, to King Henry IV., respecting Sir Roger Swyllington's claim to the haven, &c., of Dunwich.
25. The King's writ for the haven of Dunwich; dated at Westminster, Feb. 14th, 1401. Among other privileges, claim is made of the right of wreck of sea within the bounds and limits of the port. "*Necnon wreccum maris eveniens inter quendam locum vocatum le oldehavene, et villam de Suthwold.*"
26. Petition, in French, sans date, to King Henry IV., respecting their port destroyed by "*de tempest de la meer.*"
27. A second petition to the same effect.
29. A supplication from the bailiffs and inhabitants of "*Donewyche*" to King Henry the Fourth, against the claims of Sir Roger Swyllington, lord of the manor of Blythborough, touching their haven.
31. An indenture, or "*bylle endented made atte Donewyche the monday next after Seynt George day, the zere of the kyng henry the fourth, aft^r the conquest the sexte zere*" between Sir Roger Swyllington and the bailiffs and burgesses and commonalty of Dunwich, respecting their rights.
33. A second indenture to the same effect, dated the same day and year. To this is attached a very perfect seal of Sir Roger Swyllington in red wax, with his arms encircled with the legend—"*Sigillum . Rogeri . Swyllyngton.*"
34. Adam Pethaugh, of Dunwich, and Christiana, his wife, convey a piece of land called Valenes, in the parish of St. Martin, to William Barboure, of the same town. Among the witnesses occur the names of John Moreff, Peter Codon, Robert Codon, &c.; dated at Dunwich in the 9th of Henry IV.
35. Release of a messuage in Dunwich from Peter Folkard; dated 10th of Henry IV., 1409.
37. Charter respecting the port of Dunwich, and manor of Blythborough; dated at Westminster, June 24th, 1409.
39. Letters Patent of Henry VI., appointing James Hobard, Edmund Jenney, Philip Tylney, Knts., Christopher Jenney, Peter Moreff, William Howard, Peter Baldwyn, John Gentilman, Richard Baldwyn, and Henry Rabett, to be justices "*ad gaolem nostram ville et Burgi Donewici.*" Dated

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at Westminster, 20th November, 1446. The upper portion of a very elegant seal of white wax remaining.—A crowned head beneath a triple canopy.

40. Inquisition taken at Henhowe, (the port of Dunwich injured by the violence of the sea,) in which William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, is called "firmarius et occupator ville Donewici;" dated 25th Henry VI., 1447.
41. John Lewke, of Dunwich, releases to Richard Russel a piece of land in All Saints' parish, in Dunwich; dated 26th Henry VI., 1448.
43. Indenture between the mayor, burgesses, and commonalty of Kingston upon Hull, and the mayor, &c., of Dunwich, for mutual exemptions in trade. Dated 20th of October, 37th Henry VI., 1459.
44. "Thys bylle indented meade the xvj day of Aprille, in the threde zere of kyng Edwerd the fowrte, be twyn Thomas peers and John Scheplyng, ballyffs of the Town of Donewych, and John Strawnge, of Brampton, esquier, wetnessyth that the sayde John Strawnge consintyth be y^e p^rsent to been oon off the burgeys for Donewych at the p^rlement to been holden at Westminster the xxix day off thys sayd moneyth of Apr^rll for the gwhech, gwhechyr it holde longe tyme or shortt, or gwedyr it fortune to been progyth, the sayde John Strawnge consintyth no more to takyn for his wagys than a cade of full heryns, and halff abarell full heryns; tho to been delivryd be Cristemasse next comyng. In wetnesse her off eyther partt to other indentur her selyd han sett, day and zere abovesayd."

This very curious document, which proves the truth of the assertion that our ancestors were as anxious to evade the duties of Parliament, as their descendants are to obtain them, fills an hiatus in the list of bailiffs for Dunwich given by Gardiner under the year 1466.

45. A certificate, addressed "to all true christian people that these present letters shall see, here, or rede," by "Ralf Josselyn, mair, and thaldremen of the citie of London," witnesses to free toll between London and Dunwich. Dated 6th July, 5th Edward IV., 1466.
47. Petition of the bailiffs of Dunwich to the Lord Admiral of France, concerning fishing vessels being plundered. Dated at Dunwich, A. D. 1472.
48. Release from Robert Wade, and Matilda, his wife, of a messuage, &c., in Dunwich, to John Chamberleyn. Dated 22nd Edward IV., January, 1483.
51. Indenture, dated 26th day of January, in the 22nd of Henry VII., between the sheriff of Suffolk and the bailiffs of Dunwich, respecting an assault: the parties bound to appear at Ipswich, to answer to the same.
53. Grant by Thomas Harryson and his wife of a piece of land in the parish of St. John the Baptist, in Dunwich, held by the service of paying a red rose annually, on the nativity of St. John the Baptist; dated at Dunwich on the 5th day of June, 15th of Henry the 8th, 1524.
54. Writ of Henry the 8th to the justices of peace in his borough of Dunwich; dated at Westminster, 12th of October, 21st of his reign, 1530.
55. Indenture made the 12th day of March, in the 28th of Henry the 8th, between John Dowe, of Dunwich, yeoman, and Margaret, his wife, and John Basye, of the same town, conveying "a pece of lond lyeing in the p^ryshe of All Seynts."
57. The will of John Mullsforthe, of Dunwich, dated the 5th of Edward the 6th, 1550: leaves his body to be buried in the church-yard of St. Peter's church, before the porch door: leaves his tene-ment, &c., to his wife, and various bequests to the poor. The will proved in 1551, in the court of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury.
61. Receipt given to the chamberlains of Dunwich for Mr. John Brown's fee for attending the previous session of Parliament. The fee 20 shillings. Dated 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary.

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62. A suit in Chancery. Margaret, daughter of Sir Edmund Rous, Knt., versus J. Bateman, for the recovery of £32. Dated the 5th of July, 21st of Elizabeth, 1582. £13. 6s. 8d. accepted for the above debt.
63. Lease of a tenement in Dunwich. Dated 20th of Elizabeth, 1578.
65. Bond from George Spratt, of Dunwich, baker, to Thomas Gathercole, and William Robson, bailiffs of Dunwich, for £100. Dated 20th of January, 13th James 1st, 1615.
67. Grant of freedom to Crispianus Nymans. Dated at Dunwich, 25th of April, 1617.
69. Lease from John Mulsforth, of Blythborough, to Robert Bennett, of Westhall, of "St. Ffraunceys's meadow, in Dunwich," with the "howses thereuppon built," for the term of five hundred years, at a peppercorn rent, payable on Michaelmas day. Dated June 13th, 7th Charles the 1st, 1631.
71. A grant of freedom from the corporation of Dunwich to Thomas Redgrave, dated August 21st, 1646, in which the several exemptions, liberties, customs, &c., of the borough are shortly and clearly explained.
73. Deed of feoffment, September 1st, 1644. John Page, alias Baxter, left his lands and tenements, lying in Carlton, to some honest person, in fee-simple, and directed that £3 per annum should be paid to the bailiffs of Dunwich, from the issues and profits coming out of the said lands, to be distributed to the poor, and £2, also, to the poor of Laxfield. A moiety of the surplus to be paid to the bailiffs of Dunwich, and the other moiety to the churchwardens of Laxfield, also to be distributed to the poor. Twenty-four feoffees appointed, with direction to make a new feoffment when twenty of them shall be dead. Donor's will dated 1556.
75. An account of the victuals, &c., purchased for the French prisoners at Dunwich. This document appears to be the chamberlain's account, made about the 33rd of Henry the 8th, 1542, or perhaps, in 1544, when the French intrigues in Scotland so far excited his resentment, that he declared war against France, and united his arms to those of the Emperor, Charles the 5th. The account is very long, and contains many curious items.

In pprimis for a gallon of butter	xd.
Item, for a barell of beere	ijs. viijd.
A peck of salt	ijjd.
An hundreth heryngs	xijd.
An hundreth wode	xijd.
For ix dosen brede	ixs.
For a barell of bere, and half a barell, payed to the bere bruers of Leyston	iiijjs.
Payed to Robert Waller for xi stone of befe	vs. vjd.
For half a boshell of pesyn	vjd.
For ot mell	jd.
For a cade of red heryngs	vjs. viijd.
For the admyrall dyn ^r	xviijs.

Other matters are mixed up in the account.

Payed for the Scotts supp ^r and brekefast, and con- ductyng them forth to Estbrige	iijs. vjd.
Payed to the game players	xvd.
For a rope for the bekon	vs. vjd.

Payed to Mr. Coppyng for a peese of tymbre to set the gone upon, and Rob ^t Horle for ye wurkman- ship, and John Burton for an hope of yron and spykyng, and ther mete and drynke	vs.
Payed to Mr. Brown for his burges fee	xxs.

The particulars of the last item, which have been detailed under number 61, refer to the year 1558; but this and the entry above it in the roll, which is a charge of xv*d*. for "a quart of porpos sent to Mr. Brown," and which conclude the account, are evidently added at a subsequent period, and in paler ink. Probably the whole memorandum from the Scotts' supper is unconnected with the French prisoners.

END OF VOL. II.

92.8
28.

977.1 24 Tafeln
v. 1. Heft.

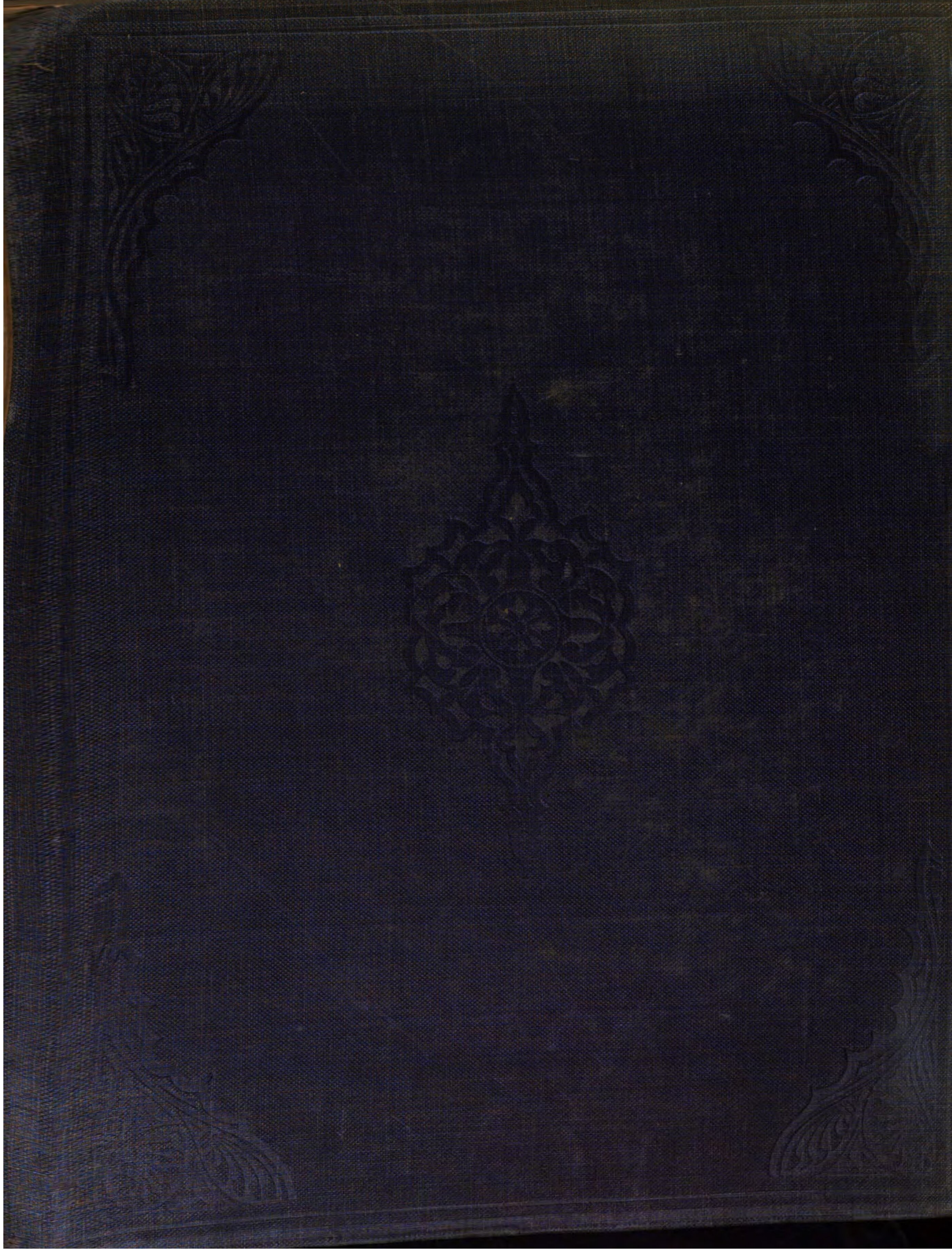
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1. Handb. d. L.

977.1 24 Tafeln
v. 1. Heft.

77 Menstrat. u.
1. Heft.



Suckling, Alfred

The history and antiquities of the County of Suffolk

Bd.: 2

London 1846

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